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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Zambia

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-eighth session from 6 to 17 November 2017. The review of Zambia was held at the 12th meeting, on 13 November 2017. The delegation of Zambia was headed by the Minister of Justice, Given Lubinda. At its 17th meeting, held on 16 November 2017, the Working Group adopted the report on Zambia.

2. On 13 February 2017, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Zambia: China, Kenya and Switzerland.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Zambia:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/ZMB/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/ZMB/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/ZMB/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Brazil, Germany, Liechtenstein, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Zambia through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation of Zambia stated that Zambia upheld the principles of the universal periodic review mechanism and did not spare any effort in promoting and protecting human rights through its response to the recommendations resulting from the review.

6. The Constitutional review process had been finalized and the amended Constitution enacted on 2 January 2016. The Constitution now enhanced the mandate of the Human Rights Commission which, together with the Law Development Commission, was working with the Government to review the draft Human Rights Commission Act for possible enactment in 2018. The Government would take all possible measures to maintain the Commission's A status.

7. The Constitution provided for the establishment of key institutions that effectively facilitated the country's compliance with its obligations arising from human rights instruments. They included the Constitutional Court, the Court of Appeal, the Family Court, the Police Public Complaints Commission, the Judicial Complaints Commission and the Gender Equity and Equality Commission.

8. The amendment to the Bill of Rights that had been subjected to a referendum had not passed, as it had not reached the required threshold prescribed in the Constitution. The remaining challenges that were inhibiting the fulfilment of human rights in Zambia would be addressed through the Seventh National Development Plan (2017–2021).

9. The Social Cash Transfer Programme targeted extremely poor and destitute households. With the budgetary commitments that had been made, the Programme was expected to target 700,000 households in 2018.

10. The Home Grown School Feeding Programme was currently supporting 1,052,760 learners in 38 districts and preparations had been made to extend it to 1,500,000 learners in 55 districts in January 2018.

11. With regard to the implementation of supported recommendations from the second review, Zambia had amended the Constitution and enacted the Persons with Disabilities Act No. 6 of 2012, the Higher Education Act No. 4 of 2013, the Gender Equity and Equality Act No. 22 of 2015, the Public Protector Act No. 15 of 2016, the Passports Act No. 28 of 2016 and the Refugees Act No. 1 of 2017. It had also enacted the Ratification of International Agreements Act No. 34 of 2016, which provided for the ratification and domestication of international agreements.

12. Zambia had put in place appropriate legal, administrative and policy measures for the advancement of women, such as the inclusion of progressive clauses in the Constitution and the enactment of enabling legislation that had domesticated the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and relevant regional instruments. In addition, the National Gender Policy had been adopted and gender focal points had been introduced in all ministries, provinces and spending agencies.

13. Since the previous review, measures had been put in place to strengthen public accountability and combat corruption, including by reinstating the offence of abuse of office in the Anti-Corruption Act No. 3 of 2012, setting up integrity committees within public institutions, initiating the decentralization of the Office of the Public Protector, and strengthening the Public Accounts Committee of the National Assembly. The National Prosecution Authority had been decentralized, which had rendered the prosecution process more efficient. Moreover, ethics, governance and human rights education had been incorporated into the school curriculum.

14. All allegations of attacks against individuals because of their sexual orientation or gender identity were investigated without discrimination.

15. Despite having retained the death penalty on its statue books, Zambia was a de facto abolitionist State.

16. Torture was prohibited under the Constitution. An anti-torture bill and a correctional services bill that addressed torture in correctional facilities were before the National Assembly.

17. During the period under review, a total of four correctional facilities with capacity for over 1,050 inmates had been built. Furthermore, two additional correctional facilities e..h with a capacity of 2,000 inmates were currently under construction. Efforts were also being made to renovate existing correctional facilities. Regular inspections were carried out to monitor inmates' access to food and the Correctional Services now employed staff who specialized in environmental health and nutrition. The penal system had been transformed from punitive to correctional.

18. The Anti-Human Trafficking Act of 2008 was being implemented through, inter alia, the National Policy to Combat Human Trafficking. Zambia had an outstanding relationship with the United Nations system on the implementation of that legislation.

19. Measures had been put in place to increase the coverage of birth registration, including by decentralizing the birth registration services and holding nationwide awareness-raising campaigns.

20. In order to promote employment and uphold workers' rights, policies such as the National Employment and Labour Market Policy and the Zambia Decent Work Country Programme (2013–2016) had been reviewed and reformulated. In addition, the legislative framework on the protection of workers' and employers' rights had been strengthened through the amendment of the Employment Act and the Minimum Wages and Conditions of Employment Act.

21. HIV/AIDS was being combated through efforts that included revising the National HIV and AIDS Strategic Framework 2014–2016, launching a campaign for routine HIV testing, and introducing counselling and treatment in all public health institutions in response to the Government's aim to eliminate HIV/AIDS from Zambia by 2030. The

National Health Strategic Plan 2017–2021, which outlined strategies to combat various diseases, also included strategies to combat HIV/AIDS.

22. As for the lack of human resources in the health sector, a significant number of additional staff had been recruited in 2015 and 2016. The newly established Copperbelt University School of Medicine would be producing 250 doctors and 50 dentists on an annual basis.

23. In relation to education, during the period under review, Zambia had twice endeavoured to honour the Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All with regard to its budgetary allocation to the education sector.

24. In the case of conflict between statutory law and customary law, the Constitution provided that it took precedence and that any law, including customary law and customary practice, that was inconsistent with its provisions was void to the extent of its inconsistency. Local court justices had been trained to uphold the supremacy of the Constitution over customs and customary law.

25. In relation to the representation of women in decision-making, the Constitution set out an affirmative framework for positions to which people were elected and appointed. In addition, the Gender Equality and Equity Act No. 22 of 2015 empowered the Minister responsible for gender affairs to put in place affirmative action to eliminate any barriers that prevented women from meaningful participation in all spheres.

26. There was improved awareness among victims of rape and defilement, which had resulted in more cases being reported and determined by the courts. The rape of a spouse was not excluded from prosecution. Among other initiatives for victims of gender-based violence, there were three shelters and a one-stop centre that provided comprehensive services.

27. The Anti-Human Trafficking Act, the National Child Labour Policy and the National Child Policy had been put in place to protect children from economic exploitation, including child labour. In addition, Statutory Instrument No. 121 of 2013 prohibited the employment of young persons in any type of hazardous labour.

28. A number of detention centres now contained separate facilities for juvenile offenders. There were also two reformatory schools for incarcerated juveniles.

29. The Persons with Disabilities Act No. 6 of 2012, through which the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities had been incorporated into domestic legislation, promoted respect for the inherent dignity of persons with disabilities and ensured that they enjoyed human rights and freedoms on an equal footing with others. Progress had been made to enact the Mental Health Bill, which would repeal the Mental Disorders Act in order to promote progressive assistance and reasonable accommodation for persons with cognitive disabilities.

30. The principle of non-refoulement had been incorporated into the domestic legal framework through the enactment of the Refugees Act No. 1 of 2017.

31. Due to competing national needs, the 15 per cent budgetary allocation to the health sector, pursuant to the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases, had not been reached. Furthermore, the Human Rights Commission had been insufficiently funded.

32. There were no constraints in law or in practice to the acceptance of visits by the Human Rights Council special procedure mandate holders.

33. Zambia had not yet revised the legal age of criminal responsibility. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court had been ratified, but had not yet been incorporated into domestic law. Zambia was committed to ratifying the Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statute on the crime of aggression.

34. A midterm report on the implementation of review recommendations would be drawn up under the Seventh National Development Plan and would also include information on the implementation of recommendations from treaty bodies.

35. Zambia was committed to developing a national action plan to strengthen the protection of human rights in business. An assessment of the domestication of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights was being conducted.

36. In October 2016, the Commission of Inquiry on Voting Patterns and Electoral Violence had been appointed to ascertain the causes of political violence.

37. Financing challenges had restricted access to sexual and reproductive health and services. The Government was in the process of drafting a health-care financing strategy to address resource mobilization and budget allocations for sexual and reproductive health and services.

38. Maternal mortality remained high and Zambia had been unable to achieve the relevant target of the Millennium Development Goals by the end of 2015.

39. In relation to the voluntary pledges that had been made at the previous review, a national strategy had been developed to reduce child marriage by 40 per cent by 2021 and the Freedom of Information Bill had been prepared. The Government was in the process of consulting stakeholders on amending the Public Order Act to accommodate interest groups.

40. Support from the international community was required in order to establish an interministerial and stakeholder universal periodic review coordination mechanism, combat maternal mortality and decentralize the Human Rights Commission and the Office of the Public Protector. The Human Rights Commission required support with mainstreaming the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights into its work.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

41. During the interactive dialogue, 78 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

42. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela highlighted the efforts of Zambia to align its national laws with international human rights obligations. It commended Zambia for the various awareness-raising campaigns it had launched to promote human rights.

43. Yemen noted the progress made by Zambia to promote the rights of women and children, and to combat human trafficking and include human rights education in schools and in the community.

44. Zimbabwe praised Zambia for the adoption of the Seventh National Development Plan, the Persons with Disabilities Act, the Higher Education Act, the Gender Equity and Equality Act and the Public Protector Act. It noted that human rights had been included in the school curriculum and in training modules for defence and security personnel.

45. Algeria welcomed the integration of a number of international norms in the domestic legal framework regarding persons with disabilities, gender issues and refugee rights. It praised the measures that had been taken to combat corruption, develop a national judicial system, improve the rights of women and children, combat human trafficking and protect the environment.

46. Angola commended Zambia for its adoption of the Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Act, 2016 and its engagement with human rights mechanisms on the promotion and protection of human rights. Angola encouraged Zambia to continue to implement measures to improve the social conditions of its people.

47. Argentina welcomed the delegation of Zambia and thanked its members for their detailed presentation of the national report.

48. Armenia commended Zambia for the establishment of the Ministry of Gender and the formulation of the National Gender Policy. It encouraged Zambia to facilitate birth registration, especially in rural areas, and to ensure effective investigation into cases of sale, trafficking and abduction of children and to prosecute the perpetrators.

49. Australia encouraged the Government to engage in constructive dialogue with all political parties, and welcomed the release from prison of the opposition leader Hakainde

Hichilema. It encouraged all parties to work together to entrench respect for democracy and human rights.

50. Azerbaijan recognized the strong commitment of Zambia to the universal periodic review and to the protection and promotion of human rights. It noted that the National Development Plan 2017–2021 contained ambitious goals relating to economic development and human rights.

51. Benin congratulated Zambia on its efforts to implement the recommendations made during its previous universal periodic review. It praised the initiatives taken in relation to development and education for young children.

52. Botswana welcomed the enactment of the Gender Equity and Equality Act and the ratification of the Southern African Development Community Protocol on Gender and Development. It recognized the persistent challenges, particularly in relation to child marriage, child labour, protracted pretrial detention, the high infant mortality rate and high levels of poverty.

53. Brazil commended Zambia for the revised National HIV and AIDS Strategic Framework, the national campaign for routine HIV testing, counselling and treatment, the Gender Equity and Equality Act and the Persons with Disabilities Act.

54. Burkina Faso praised Zambia for its national report, which provided detailed information about the progress made on human rights over the past five years. It noted, however, that there were shortcomings in a number of areas.

55. Burundi highlighted the creation of human rights educational programmes for primary and secondary schools and training programmes on human rights for defence and security personnel. It praised the positive measures that were being taken to combat gender-based violence.

56. Canada commended Zambia for its national and international commitment to ending child, early and forced marriage.

57. Chad noted with appreciation the progress made by Zambia to respond to the recommendations from the second review cycle. It praised the inclusion of civil society and independent organizations in the consultative process to prepare the national report. Chad welcomed the various steps taken to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights.

58. Chile congratulated Zambia for the adoption of Act No. 22 of 2015, establishing the Commission on Gender Equality and Equity and incorporating the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. It also praised the progress made in the area of public health, particularly in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

59. China noted the laws and national plans adopted by Zambia to promote and protect human rights. It referred to the progress made in the areas of gender equality, education, health care, the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities, and combating sexual violence and human trafficking.

60. The Congo encouraged Zambia to implement its legislative reforms to effectively combat trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children, improve protection of persons with albinism, and prevent and punish all forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities.

61. Côte d'Ivoire commended Zambia for the reform of its legal and institutional framework with the aim of aligning it with its international obligations and welcomed the steps it had taken to become a party to a number of international human rights instruments.

62. Cuba commended Zambia for its progress in the promotion and protection of human rights, including the establishment of the National Gender Policy. It also acknowledged the efforts of Zambia to improve the level of education in urban and rural areas.

63. Denmark commended Zambia for signing the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, but noted that Zambia had not yet ratified it.

64. Djibouti welcomed the inclusive process implemented by Zambia to prepare its national report. It also commended Zambia for the progresses achieved in incorporating several international human rights instruments into its national legal framework.

65. Egypt valued the efforts of Zambia to promote and protect human rights and to implement the recommendations received during its previous universal periodic review. It commended Zambia for undertaking several legislative and policy initiatives and for its cooperation with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms.

66. Ethiopia commended Zambia for implementing the recommendations it had accepted during the previous review cycles and noted with appreciation the efforts to enhance its Constitutional and legislative framework, in particular by adopting comprehensive legislation aimed at effective and sustainable environmental management.

67. Finland noted the commitment of Zambia to supporting women's socioeconomic empowerment and the measures it had taken to promote gender equality. It commended Zambia for the launch of the Seventh National Development Plan, which included commitments in the areas of human rights and the rule of law.

68. France welcomed the positive developments in Zambia, notably the inclusion of human rights and the rule of law in the Seventh National Development Plan and the revision of the normative framework on prisons and on political parties.

69. Georgia welcomed the new Constitution of Zambia and its provision on non-discrimination. It encouraged the Government to accelerate efforts to prevent gender-based violence and sexual abuse.

70. Germany commended Zambia for its cooperation with international human rights mechanisms. It also highly appreciated the commitment of Zambia to alleviating the refugee crisis on the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo and praised the announced approval of a moratorium on the use of death penalty.

71. Ghana noted with satisfaction the harmonization of Zambian domestic laws with the country's international human rights obligations. It also welcomed the formulation of the National Gender Policy and the strengthening of the national mechanism for the advancement of women.

72. Guatemala noted the positive work of the National Human Rights Commission, but was concerned at reported restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, including under the law against defamation and the law on public order.

73. Honduras acknowledged the progresses made in terms of legislative and constitutional reform in Zambia. It noted that, despite the fact that the death penalty had been maintained under the new Constitution, Zambia had not carried out any executions over the past 20 years.

74. India commended Zambia for having harmonized its legislative framework with international instruments in the area of gender equality and the rights of persons with disabilities. It also noted the efforts Zambia had made to improve access to integrated health-care services.

75. Indonesia welcomed the formulation of the Seventh National Development Plan (2017–2021) on strategies to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights. It commended Zambia for establishing the Gender Equity and Equality Commission and enacting the Gender Equity and Equality Act No. 22 of 2015.

76. Iraq welcomed the efforts of Zambia to implement constitutional and legislative amendments aimed at promoting human rights protection in the country and to improve the justice service. It commended Zambia for its successful economic policies.

77. Ireland welcomed the efforts of Zambia to advance human rights in the country and acknowledged the progresses it had made. It was, however, concerned about the negative developments regarding the rights to freedom of assembly and expression.

78. Italy welcomed the progress made in aligning domestic legislation with international human rights obligations, especially those relating to persons with disabilities, education, gender equity and equality. It commended Zambia for implementing initiatives to raise HIV awareness, especially among young people.

79. Kenya commended Zambia for its efforts to implement relevant human rights-related legal and administrative measures, despite resource constraints. It called on the international community to support Zambia in that endeavour.

80. Libya welcomed the measures taken to strengthen human rights, the rule of law and national mechanisms for the promotion and protection of women's rights. It noted initiatives for improving infrastructure, especially in health and education.

81. Lithuania welcomed the new constitutional provisions on non-discrimination and looked forward to their implementation. It noted that the use of criminal defamation laws and harassment of the independent media restricted freedom of expression.

82. Madagascar welcomed the positive steps taken by Zambia, including its commitment to protect victims of human trafficking, to ensure the right to education and to integrate into domestic legislation the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

83. Malaysia welcomed the progress in education, health and women's and children's rights. It commended Zambia for its efforts to address gender-based violence through the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Act and the establishment of a one-stop centre for victims.

84. Maldives commended Zambia for the enactment of the Gender Equity and Equality Act No. 22 and the establishment of the Gender Equity and Equality Commission. It welcomed the establishment of the National Prosecution Authority and the implementation of the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Act.

85. Mauritius welcomed the pledges that had been made under the Seventh National Development Plan (2017–2021), including the focus on the environment. It was encouraged by the efforts of Zambia to improve the rights of women through the Gender Equity and Equality Commission and the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Fund.

86. Mexico welcomed the fact that Zambia received migrants from neighbouring countries and encouraged it to continue fulfilling its international human rights obligations. Mexico congratulated it for increasing access to primary education and health care, for raising life expectancy and for reducing child mortality.

87. Mongolia welcomed Zambia and thanked it for presenting its national report.

88. Montenegro regretted that the Bill of Rights had not been adopted, but commended Zambia for preparing an anti-torture bill. Montenegro welcomed the progress made in preventing gender-based violence.

89. Morocco welcomed the Constitutional consecration of the prohibition of torture and the drafting of a law against torture. It congratulated Zambia on implementing measures to combat discrimination and violence against women and girls.

90. Namibia noted the establishment of the Gender Equity and Equality Commission and the domestication of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. However, it regretted that the amendments to the Bill of Rights had not been adopted through the referendum and that the death penalty had been retained in the Constitution.

91. The Netherlands commended Zambia for the adoption of the National HIV and AIDS Strategic Framework (2017–2020), but regretted that the country had not accepted any of the recommendations made during previous review cycles relating to same-sex relations and protection of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

92. Nigeria welcomed the formulation of the National Child Policy, the National Gender Policy and the Freedom of Information Bill. It also welcomed the legislative measures and plans that Zambia had put in place to protect children from economic exploitation, including child labour.

93. Norway welcomed the domestication of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. However, Norway was concerned about the deterioration in the enjoyment of the rights to freedom of assembly and expression, about the rights of the child and about follow-up to the recommendations from the previous reviews.

94. Pakistan appreciated the efforts made regarding gender equity and equality, persons with disabilities, education and refugees. The efforts of Zambia to ensure equal access for the poor and the vulnerable to economic resources, basic services, natural resources and financial services were commendable.

95. Paraguay welcomed the progress noted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in terms of developments in national legislation in the education sector.

96. The Philippines commended the steps taken to uphold the promotion and protection of human rights and the efforts to empower girls and women through the Girls Education and Women's Empowerment and Livelihood Project.

97. Portugal welcomed the audit and review of all child-related legislation and customary law by the Zambia Law Development Commission.

98. The Republic of Korea commended Zambia for the enactment of the amended Constitutional Act 2016, and for providing protection for vulnerable groups, particularly children and persons with disabilities. It welcomed the establishment of the Commission of Inquiry on Voting Patterns and Electoral Violence.

99. The Russian Federation noted efforts to eliminate violence against women and children and to fight discrimination against persons with disabilities. It welcomed the draft law on criminal responsibility for the use of torture by law enforcement personnel.

100. Rwanda praised Zambia for its efforts to fight sexual and gender-based violence, and encouraged it to strengthen implementation of its legislation on gender-based violence and to ensure justice for victims.

101. Senegal welcomed the adoption of the amended Constitution and other legislative measures, which contributed to the elimination of discrimination and gender-based violence and the promotion of the right to health and education. It urged the international community to assist Zambia.

102. Sierra Leone applauded Zambia for the implementation of the Seventh National Development Plan, the enactment of the Gender Equity and Equality Act and its efforts to address trafficking. It encouraged Zambia to increase the representation of women in decision-making positions and to adopt comprehensive nutrition policies.

103. Slovakia welcomed the review of child-related legislation and customary law, and expressed concern at the high rates of child labour and child and early marriage.

104. Slovenia commended Zambia for introducing policies on education and women's empowerment. It noted with concern the high rates of child mortality, child marriage, prostitution and exploitation, and the prevalence of HIV/AIDS among children. Slovenia encouraged Zambia to abolish the death penalty.

105. South Africa welcomed the broad consultations that had been held to prepare the national report for the universal periodic review, and the establishment of the Ministry of Gender, the gender focal points in ministries and the development of the National Gender Policy.

106. Spain appreciated the efforts of Zambia to promote and protect human rights, but noted that there was room for improvement.

107. The State of Palestine praised Zambia for its efforts with regard to childhood development and education and the progress it had made with the Social Cash Transfer Programme. The undernourishment of children and women, particularly pregnant and breastfeeding women, was of concern.

108. The Sudan commended Zambia for the steps it had taken to promote and protect human rights, particularly the enactment of many laws, such as the Persons with Disabilities Act of 2012, the Higher Education Act of 2013 and the Gender Equity and Equality Act of 2015.

109. Sweden acknowledged the continued work of the Government of Zambia to fulfil its obligations with regard to human rights, and encouraged it to make further efforts.

110. Switzerland welcomed the efforts made in the area of education. However, it recalled that the Committee on the Rights of the Child had expressed concern about the fact that the principle of non-discrimination was not properly applied to children belonging to the most vulnerable groups in Zambia.

111. Timor-Leste welcomed the efforts made by Zambia to address conditions in its prison and detention centres, including by building new correctional centres. It noted with appreciation the efforts made to promote women's empowerment.

112. Togo welcomed the policies to facilitate access to health care and to increase access to quality education. Togo welcomed the steps that had been taken to improve the functioning of the labour market, with particular emphasis on the elimination of the worst forms of child labour.

113. Tunisia welcomed the amendments to the Constitution concerning the prohibition of discrimination. It encouraged Zambia to spread the culture of human rights through its Seventh National Development Plan (2017–2020), which would guarantee better economic and social rights.

114. Uganda noted the absence of a national stakeholder coordination mechanism for the effective implementation of recommendations. It urged Zambia to prioritize the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in order to address poverty.

115. Ukraine noted that the process of amending the Constitution was incomplete, given the failure to adopt a new Bill of Rights by national referendum in 2016. It was concerned at the prosecution of persons who had been exercising their rights to freedom of assembly and expression before and after the elections in 2016.

116. The United Kingdom looked forward to further progress in improving the human rights record following the challenges Zambia had faced around the election in 2016. The United Kingdom urged Zambia to adopt a merit-based selection process for national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections and to review its legislation establishing the minimum age for marriage.

117. The United States expressed concern about the political environment since the elections in August 2016, including the restrictions on the rights to freedom of speech and of assembly and the deliberate misapplication of the Public Order Act to block gatherings by opposition parties.

118. Uruguay welcomed the initiatives that had been taken in relation to the rights of the child, including the prohibition of corporal punishment in all spheres, and the creation of the Commission for Gender Equity and Equality. The fact that discrimination and violence against women persisted was partly due to inconsistencies in the legal framework.

119. The Central African Republic welcomed the delegation of Zambia and praised its efforts to implement the recommendations accepted during the previous review. It called on the international community to support those efforts.

120. The delegation of Zambia stated that the Law Development Commission, in consultation with the Government, had developed the draft children's code. Once enacted, the code would domesticate the Convention on the Rights of the Child and relevant regional instruments. In 2015, several policies had been adopted, including the National Child Policy, to improve the welfare of children.

121. As expressly provided in the Constitution, Zambia was a Christian nation. The right to life of the unborn child was protected and such life began at conception. In that regard, safe abortions must be carried out in very specific circumstances, which were provided for in the Termination of Pregnancy Act and the Penal Code.

122. The death penalty was provided for in the Bill of Rights in the Constitution, which could be amended only by referendum. Strides had been made since 1997 in efforts to abolish the death penalty, which was why there had been no executions since 1997. In 2016, a referendum that could have led to the abolition of the death penalty had been held, but the people had rejected the motion and the Bill of Rights had remained unchanged. The President had commuted all death sentences in 2016 and, currently, there were some 174 inmates on death row, only 13 of whom had had their appeals processed.

123. In its efforts to abolish the death penalty, the Government was currently working on ways to amend the Penal Code so that the death penalty could be handed down at the discretion of judges, rather than being mandatory. In addition, the Government was carrying out awareness-raising campaigns and in due time, people would be ready to abolish the death penalty.

124. Efforts were being made to expedite the ratification of the treaties to which Zambia was not yet a party. Those efforts included establishing a database and enacting a law on the ratification of international agreements.

125. Zambia had received negative publicity, particularly by the international media, which had conveyed the perception of a deterioration in terms of enjoyment of the rights to freedom of assembly and of expression. The delegation requested its international partners to assist in reversing that perception.

126. The claim that the Public Order Act had been used to curtail opposition parties or dissenting voices was far from the truth. In the run-up to the 2016 elections, the number of ruling party meetings that had been stopped under the Public Order Act had exceeded the total number of all opposition party meetings that had been stopped. Several meetings had had to be put on hold by the Minister of Justice because the police did not have sufficient capacity to ensure peaceful assembly. The Government had a responsibility to maintain peace and order.

127. There were 123 private radio stations and 26 television broadcasting houses, which represented a significant increase over the past few years. The Independent Broadcasting Authority had revoked the licences of three broadcasting houses in order to investigate allegations of hate speech. Those broadcasting houses had apologized for their use of hate speech. Another incident had concerned The Post newspaper, which had been closed down by a court order due to its failure to meet its debts and tax obligations.

128. Over a 12-month period, there had been several incidents of arson, which had led to electricity disruptions and the destruction of markets. Article 31 of the Constitution of Zambia provided for measures to curtail such incidents. The application of that provision had resulted in a reduction in the number of such incidents.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

129. **The following recommendations have been examined by Zambia and enjoy the support of Zambia**:

129.1 **Accelerate the process of domestication of international human rights instruments to which it is a party (Zimbabwe);**

129.2 **Amend its national legislation to be in conformity with the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, including when revising the Bill of Rights and the Political Parties Bill, in order to protect and promote women's rights and gender equality (Finland);**

129.3 **Redouble efforts in order to ensure the full incorporation of the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women into domestic legislation (Uruguay);**

129.4 **Reform the Public Order Act and ensure that law enforcement agencies are instructed to uphold the Act without political bias (Norway);**

129.5 **Continue the efforts to widen the scope of the 1996 Bill of Rights to include economic, social and cultural rights (Republic of Korea);**

129.6 **Assign the human, technical and financial resources necessary for the proper functioning of the Office of the Commissioner for Children and for the sexual and reproductive health care of women and girls (Honduras);**

129.7 **Grant sufficient means and resources to the National Human Rights Commission (Algeria);**

129.8 **Provide the National Human Rights Commission with sufficient financial resources to carry out its activities more effectively (Guatemala);**

129.9 **Consider ways to strengthen the National Human Rights Commission in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Australia);**

129.10 **Strengthen the capacity of the National Human Rights Commission by allocating sufficient resources for its activities (Uganda);**

129.11 **Adopt a national human rights action plan (Sudan);**

129.12 **Expedite the formulation of a national action plan on human rights (Uganda);**

129.13 **Finalize an action plan to guide the implementation of all universal periodic review recommendations (South Africa);**

129.14 **Adopt the national action plan on children (Benin);**

129.15 **Implement the Convention on the Rights of Child in the context of its national policy on children (Benin);**

129.16 **Implement the Seventh National Development Plan (2017–2020) in order to address the human rights challenges that it recognizes as pending (Cuba);**

129.17 **Strengthen coordination and follow-up to the implementation of the universal periodic review recommendations (Morocco);**

129.18 **Consider the establishment of a, or strengthen the existing national mechanism for coordination, implementation, reporting and follow-up, in line with elements arising from good practices identified in the 2016 OHCHR guide on national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up (Portugal);**

129.19 **Continue its efforts to include human rights issues in the training programmes for military personnel and security personnel (Russian Federation);**

129.20 **Intensify efforts on the development of a legal framework aimed at the elimination of discrimination based on sex, race, disability, status or any other ground (Ukraine);**

129.21 **Adopt effective measures to put an end to discrimination based on gender and to violence against women, as well as to child marriage. This would include awareness-raising campaigns and trying to bring in local authorities and traditional leaders into the process (Spain);**

129.22 **Continue efforts to combat discrimination against women and eliminate all forms of violence against them, in particular domestic violence (Tunisia);**

129.23 **Adopt specific legislation to provide women with sufficient protection against all discriminatory practices (Lithuania);**

129.24 **Take the necessary measures to put an end to discrimination against those who are HIV-positive and those suffering from albinism (Burkina Faso);**

129.25 **Continue to promote economic and social sustainable development, raise people's standard of living and lay a solid foundation for the enjoyment of all human rights by its people (China);**

129.26 **Redouble its efforts for effective governance of its natural resources in line with the Environmental Management Act No. 12 of 2011 (Pakistan);**

129.27 **Take further measures to protect human rights and the environment in mining areas (Algeria);**

129.28 **Establish a regulatory framework for mining companies present on the territory in order to ensure that their activities do not harm the immediate environment (Senegal);**

129.29 **Make more efforts to preserve the environment when applying agricultural development and not to use internationally banned pesticides (Iraq);**

129.30 **Continue to adopt effective measures to prevent and eradicate violence against women, children and adolescents and provide protection and assistance to the victims (Chile);**

129.31 **Continue its efforts to tackle gender-based violence and sexual violence against women and girls (Timor-Leste);**

129.32 **Continue with the implementation of national policies against gender-based violence (Cuba);**

129.33 **Adopt a comprehensive policy that effectively combats gender-based violence against women and girls (Honduras);**

129.34 **Strengthen measures to prevent and combat gender-based violence, including the representation of women in positions of responsibility (Paraguay);**

129.35 **Pursue the effective implementation of measures aimed at combating discrimination and violence against women (Djibouti);**

129.36 **Take effective measures to combat violence against women (Georgia);**

129.37 **In combating violence against women and girls, Zambia should swiftly and fully implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. This also includes the full implementation of the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Act of 2011 and the allocation of adequate budget resources for the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Fund (Germany);**

129.38 **Address the situation of persons with albinism, assuring them protection against attacks and killings (Portugal);**

129.39 **Take vigorous measures to protect people suffering from albinism against the different forms of violence of which they are victims (Central African Republic);**

129.40 **Strengthen national policies to ensure that persons with albinism are fully protected from attacks and implement awareness-raising programmes which also promote their social integration in rural areas (Sierra Leone);**

129.41 **Adopt as soon as possible a draft law introducing criminal responsibility for the use of torture by law enforcement officers (Russian Federation);**

129.42 **Strengthen legislation on the prohibition of torture and improve conditions of detention in prisons (France);**

129.43 **Strengthen efforts to improve the conditions in prisons and guarantee the rights of detainees (Italy);**

129.44 **Improve living conditions for detainees and take appropriate steps to reduce long terms of preventive detention (Senegal);**

129.45 **Ensure the separation of children from adults detained in police stations and prisons (Slovenia);**

129.46 **Redouble its efforts to improve living conditions in prisons and reduce overcrowding (Burundi);**

129.47 **Complete the process of renovating correctional facilities and ensure that they adhere to approved international standards (South Africa);**

129.48 **Meet international standards in ensuring adequate living conditions for inmates (Ireland);**

129.49 **Engage civil society, activists, non-governmental organizations and the media in dialogue to seek common ground on the draft Access to Information bill and governance issues, such as corruption (United States of America);**

129.50 **Continue intensifying its efforts in combating human trafficking (Ethiopia);**

129.51 **Continue efforts to combat human trafficking (Tunisia);**

129.52 **Continue to work with development partners in order to improve its capabilities in implementing its anti-trafficking law (Philippines);**

129.53 **Continue with the policies to strengthen and protect the human rights of people working in the mining sector (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

129.54 **Continue to develop its social protection policy and continuously monitor and evaluate its social cash transfer programme in this regard (State of Palestine);**

129.55 **Enhance its targeting mechanisms with regard to the delivery of social assistance to ensure that children and women, particularly pregnant and breastfeeding women, are not left behind (State of Palestine);**

129.56 **Continue promoting the national human rights policies, especially in the field of economic, social and cultural rights, in order to improve the quality of life of its population, to alleviate the standard of living of the most vulnerable (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

129.57 **Increase funding to the health sector to the levels committed to in the Abuja Declaration and particularly increase the general health infrastructure, the patient to medical staff ratio and improve health-care access for women from poor and/or rural backgrounds (Kenya);**

129.58 **Improve health-care institutions with the aim of reducing maternal mortality (Angola);**

129.59 **Continue its efforts to reduce maternal mortality and strengthen the health-care system (Sudan);**

129.60 **Intensify its efforts to alleviate the remaining obstacles to access to health care for pregnant women and mothers in order to decrease significantly the rate of maternal mortality (Burkina Faso);**

129.61 **Do not further liberalize abortion and instead implement laws aimed at protecting the right to life of the unborn, recognizing that life starts at conception, and further, affirm that there is no international right to abortion (Kenya);**

129.62 **Ensure that access to HIV treatment is accessible to all who need it without any discrimination (Chile);**

129.63 **Ensure the national health and HIV policies and strategies are inclusive and accessible to all vulnerable groups, including adults and children with disabilities (India);**

129.64 **Continue to develop its health-care undertakings and further strengthen its work on HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment (China);**

129.65 **Develop adolescent-sensitive and confidential counselling services in the area of sexual and reproductive health care and information, with particular regard to adolescent girls (Portugal);**

129.66 **Improve the availability of and access to information about mental health programmes and services which are based on respect for human rights, including for adolescents (Portugal);**

129.67 **Strengthen the children's health sector with adequate resources (Central African Republic);**

129.68 **Pursue its efforts so as to improve health services and education (Libya);**

129.69 **Increase consequently resources devoted to the health and education sectors for the population living in rural areas (Togo);**

129.70 **Strengthen efforts to broaden access to education in accordance with the revised Education for All National Policy and increase allocations to the education sector (Pakistan);**

129.71 **Pursue further reforms in the education sector to improve the availability, accessibility, affordability and quality of education for all (Brazil);**

129.72 **Further ensure access to compulsory education and equal learning opportunities for all children (Indonesia);**

129.73 **Make education reforms to increase the quality of education, make it more accessible and facilitate re-entry of adolescent mothers back to school (Kenya);**

129.74 **Continue its efforts to provide universal access to education (Mongolia);**

129.75 **Work to extend its efforts regarding free primary education to all (State of Palestine);**

129.76 **Continue efforts to improve the situation of women (Egypt);**

129.77 **Further promote women's empowerment by increasing the number of women in leadership positions in all spheres of life (Indonesia);**

129.78 **Further strengthen the policies to protect children's rights (Georgia);**

129.79 **Include children's participation in formal consultative processes that require citizens' contributions (Slovakia);**

129.80 **Enhance protection of the rights of the child, including by abolishing child labour, combating malnutrition and shielding child perpetrators during detention (Norway);**

129.81 **Take all necessary measures to accelerate the adoption and implementation of the Marriage Bill (2015) to help end child marriage in Zambia (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

129.82 **Continue and strengthen efforts to prevent and eliminate child marriage (Maldives);**

129.83 **Continue efforts to combat child marriage (Morocco);**

129.84 **Take additional steps aimed at addressing the high rate of child marriage, including by fully implementing the national strategy aimed at reducing child marriage by 2021 (Namibia);**

129.85 **Improve the situation of persons with disabilities (Egypt);**

129.86 **Take more efforts to protect persons with albinism (Iraq);**

129.87 **Ensure that the laws relating to persons with disabilities are consistent with international standards (Madagascar);**

129.88 **Continue its efforts to address the rights of persons with disabilities and to update the national legal framework in order to harmonize it with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Yemen);**

129.89 **Expand the programme to boost birth registration to cover more outlying areas (Zimbabwe);**

129.90 **Further continue boosting the birth registration rate by the existing nationwide awareness campaigns among the citizens (Ethiopia).**

130. **The following recommendations will be examined by Zambia and responses will be provided in due time, but no later than the thirty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council:**

130.1 **Continue its efforts to incorporate and harmonize its internal national legislation with the main international human rights instruments in the most expeditious way (Chile);**

130.2 **Provide refugee children with access to social services, such as health and education (Portugal) (Timor-Leste).**

131. **The following recommendations have been examined by Zambia and have been noted:**

131.1 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Lithuania);**

131.2 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Mauritius);**

131.3 **Ratify the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Guatemala);**

131.4 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and further strengthen efforts on gender issues (Italy);**

131.5 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Angola) (Montenegro);**

131.6 **Ratify, without reservation, the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and take the necessary measures so as to commute the sentences of those under the death penalty (Mexico);**

131.7 **Formalize the abolition of the death penalty and accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);**

131.8 **Abolish the death penalty in law and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (France);**

131.9 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Sweden) (Togo);**

131.10 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as the three Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Spain);**

131.11 **Ratify the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Angola);**

131.12 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Togo);**

131.13 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (Armenia);**

131.14 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (Benin);**

131.15 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (India);**

131.16 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Botswana);**

131.17 **Ratify the first and second Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Iraq);**

131.18 **Ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);**

131.19 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the three Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Burkina Faso);**

131.20 **Ratify all three optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Slovakia);**

131.21 **Ratify the first and second Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Rwanda);**

131.22 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Congo);**

131.23 **Continue its efforts to sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Children (Chile);**

131.24 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Congo) (Honduras);**

131.25 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Ghana);**

131.26 **Promptly ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Guatemala);**

131.27 **Accelerate the formulation of the Labour Migration Policy and consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia);**

131.28 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark) (Ghana);**

131.29 **Consider ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Georgia);**

131.30 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Ghana);**

131.31 **Expedite the process to ratify important international instruments relevant for the advancement of human rights in Zambia, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Uganda);**

131.32 **Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Portugal);**

131.33 **Ratify the International Labour Organization Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) (Guatemala);**

131.34 **Sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Guatemala);**

131.35 **Ratify all the different conventions and protocols relating to human rights to ensure their enjoyment by its citizens (Chad);**

131.36 **Ratify those international human rights instruments which have not been ratified (Mongolia);**

131.37 **Continue engagement with the United Nations human rights mechanisms and other relevant United Nations bodies to implement the recommendations put forward today (Azerbaijan);**

131.38 **Continue its fruitful cooperation with the United Nations mechanisms, in particular those related to human rights (Côte d'Ivoire);**

131.39 **Present a standing invitation to United Nations special rapporteurs, including the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, to visit Zambia (Republic of Korea);**

131.40 **Intensify its efforts to implement the pending recommendations (Nigeria);**

131.41 **Implement the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry on Voting Patterns and Electoral Violence (South Africa);**

131.42 **Continue efforts to establish efficient and transparent public services in line with relevant United Nations resolutions (Azerbaijan);**

131.43 **Utilize human rights training and education as a way to mainstream the promotion of the rights of women and children (Philippines);**

131.44 **Develop a national action plan on business and human rights and implement it together with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (Kenya);**

131.45 **Take concrete steps towards the abolition of the death penalty (Norway);**

131.46 **Continue the public political debate to go from the current de facto abolition to the definitive abolition of the death penalty in the country (Spain);**

131.47 **Endeavour to abolish the death penalty (South Africa);**

131.48 **Take measures to introduce a de jure moratorium on executions and take concrete steps towards the abolition of the death penalty (Rwanda);**

131.49 **Consider taking steps to establish a de jure moratorium with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Italy);**

131.50 **Continue with the moratorium on the death penalty and continue making efforts towards abolishing it (Namibia);**

131.51 **Apply the principle of non-discrimination to the most vulnerable groups, such as girls, children with disabilities, children of religious minorities, children living with HIV/AIDS, migrant and refugee children, orphans and children born out of wedlock, so that they have access to health care and education (Madagascar);**

131.52 **Promote non-discrimination and inclusion campaigns with particular focus on migrants and people with albinism (Mexico);**

131.53 **Protect ethnic and religious minorities in the country and provide effective reparations when their rights are undermined (Mexico);**

131.54 **Adopt legislation that combats discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and protects the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons (Honduras);**

131.55 **Take steps to decriminalize homosexuality and promote respect for the principles of equality and non-discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (France);**

131.56 **Take actions aimed at putting an end to discrimination based on sexual orientation, beginning by eliminating the criminalization of consensual sexual relationships between adults of the same gender (Spain);**

131.57 **Engage in consultations with the concerned communities and ensure their participation in the decision-making process affecting them, through their direct involvement in the formulation and implementation of mining projects (Netherlands);**

131.58 **Abolish the death penalty (Central African Republic) (Paraguay) (Portugal);**

131.59 **Take the necessary public and legislative steps in order to abolish the death penalty (Ukraine);**

131.60 **Legislate to remove the death penalty from its statute books and commute to custodial sentences those death sentences that have already been passed down (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

131.61 **Consider the abolition of the death penalty, in accordance with the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Honduras);**

131.62 **Strengthen its efforts to abolish the death penalty in law (Mongolia);**

131.63 **Intensify the efforts to criminalize and diminish all types of violence against women (Montenegro);**

131.64 **Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility and provide adequate protection of child victims and witnesses of crime during trial (Slovenia);**

131.65 **Consider reviewing the legal age of criminal responsibility with a view to ensuring full protection for juveniles in conflict with the law (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

131.66 **Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility above 8 (Sierra Leone);**

131.67 **Ensure that freedom of association and the right to peaceful assembly are respected and protected, to include promoting better implementation of the Public Order Act (United States of America);**

131.68 **Create and maintain, in law and in practice, an enabling environment that guarantees freedom of expression and peaceful assembly (Guatemala);**

131.69 **Improve and make clearer the legislation to support the freedom of assembly (Ireland);**

131.70 **Reform the current Public Order Act to include measures that fully uphold the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, making it more conducive to political participation by all Zambians and ensure that enforcement of the Act is consistent with Zambia's human rights obligations, including through training of its security forces (Canada);**

131.71 **Make the necessary legislative changes, including restricting the scope of the Public Order Act, to ensure the freedoms of association and expression are protected; and to ensure the police enforce these and other laws in a proportionate manner (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

131.72 **Make efforts to ensure access to information of public interest to citizens and guarantee the rights of freedom of assembly (Paraguay);**

131.73 **Guarantee respect for the rights of the opposition, in particular freedom of assembly and demonstration, the freedom of the press and the media, by making the necessary corrections to the Constitution, the electoral commission, the status of the parties, as well as to the legal framework on the maintenance of public order (France);**

131.74 **Ensure media freedom by providing full editorial independence to publicly-owned media. Ensure the impartiality of the Independent Broadcasting Authority and enact legislation to facilitate access to information (Canada);**

131.75 **Continue its efforts to implement programmes and activities aimed at adjusting Zambia's Correctional Service to the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, including by adequate funding and training of officers (Brazil);**

131.76 **Make efforts to minimize overcrowding, improve sanitation and separation of juveniles from adults in prisons (India);**

131.77 **Ratify the Optional Protocols of the Convention of the Rights of the Child, raise the age of criminal responsibility to 18 years, ensure the adequate separation of children and adults in penitentiaries and jails, and ensure due legal representation for children and persons under 18 years of age within the judicial system (Paraguay);**

131.78 **Ensure that necessary reforms are undertaken to guarantee the effective protection of the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association. This includes enacting without delay an expanded Bill of Rights and Access to Information Bill and ensuring that the Public Order Act is implemented objectively and with professionalism by the police (Sweden);**

131.79 **Live up to the highest standards of international law by repealing or amending the criminal defamation clauses in its Penal Code (Lithuania);**

131.80 **Engage in constructive dialogue and reconciliation with the main opposition party to diffuse lingering tensions from the August 2016 general election (United States of America);**

131.81 **Guarantee that journalists and other media workers can carry out their work independently and without fear of persecution, including by reviewing its defamation laws to make sure they are in full compliance with international human rights law (Finland);**

131.82 **Comply with its obligation under international law to guarantee that human rights defenders, journalists and activists can carry out their work independently and free from attacks, harassment or intimidation (Netherlands);**

131.83 **Fully implement the Anti-Human Trafficking Act No. 11 of 2008 and ensure effective investigations into the cases of sale, trafficking and abduction of children to protect them from commercial exploitation (Republic of Korea);**

131.84 **Take appropriate steps to prohibit and combat child labour and the worst forms of exploitation of children (Senegal);**

131.85 **Continue efforts to consolidate the rights of the child, protect them from sexual exploitation and combat trafficking in children and child marriage (Tunisia);**

131.86 **Strengthen the implementation of measures taken to fight against child labour and trafficking of children (Djibouti);**

131.87 **Fully implement the Anti-Trafficking Act No. 11 of 2008 (Timor-Leste);**

131.88 **Review the Employment of Young Persons and Children's Act with a view to including in its domestic labour and family-based enterprises and improve its data collection mechanisms on violations of the Act (Slovakia);**

131.89 **Step up its efforts to bring an end to all forms of child labour (Timor-Leste);**

131.90 **Modify its national and customary laws in order to prevent child, early and forced marriage (Sierra Leone);**

131.91 **Set a minimum age for leaving school, which would provide incentives for addressing early marriage and child labour (Slovakia);**

131.92 **Set a minimum age for marriage under customary law, to be in line with the legal age of marriage determined by statutory law (Slovakia);**

131.93 **Ensure country-wide implementation of the Marriage Act establishing the legal age for marriage as 21 years of age (Slovenia);**

131.94 **Decriminalize same-sex relationships between consenting adults (Sweden);**

131.95 **Repeal laws that criminalize same-sex conduct between adults and review all legislation, policies and programmes to foster equality and prevent discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity (Canada);**

131.96 **Decriminalize same-sex relationships between consenting adults and strengthen efforts to address inequality and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Australia);**

131.97 **As recommended during the universal periodic review in 2012, respect the rights and fundamental freedoms of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons through the repeal of all norms that criminalize and stigmatize them (Argentina);**

131.98 **Review and repeal the legislation that criminalizes consensual sexual behaviour between people of the same sex, and prohibit degrading practices imposed on people of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community, such as forced anal examinations (Uruguay);**

131.99 **Comply strictly with the normative provisions regarding the minimum age for marriage, and prevent and investigate cases of forced marriage, prosecuting the perpetrators and ensuring assistance to victims (Argentina);**

131.100 **Fully fund and implement the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Act, the Gender Equity and Equality Act and other legislation and policies to protect girls from child, early and forced marriage and other forms of abuse (Canada);**

131.101 **Consider adopting additional measures to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities (Maldives);**

131.102 **Adopt and implement improvements to the legislation relating to children, in particular, increase the minimum age of criminal responsibility to an internationally acceptable level, address the high rate of child labour, prohibit the forced marriage of children, and end violence and sexual exploitation, including abuse, neglect and ill-treatment (Uruguay);**

131.103 **Guarantee access to health and education services for migrant children, eliminating administrative obstacles in this area (Paraguay);**

131.104 **Since Zambia has one of the highest birth rates in the world, develop and implement a comprehensive strategy on population and education policies, in line with and respecting economic, social and cultural rights (Germany);**

131.105 **Strengthen public policies to address economic and social challenges, particularly in the area of health, such as access to drinking water (France);**

131.106 **Make primary education free throughout the territory (Central African Republic);**

131.107 **Make efforts to reverse the downward budgetary allocations to the education and health sectors in order to meet the African thresholds on health and education, respectively set in the Abuja and Dakar Declarations (Namibia);**

131.108 **Take measures to strengthen efforts to reduce infant and child mortality, including by focusing on preventative measures and treatment, improved nutrition and a structured vaccination process (Botswana);**

131.109 **Seek the necessary technical, material and financial assistance in order to implement the recommendations it has endorsed (Côte d'Ivoire);**

131.110 **Continue to mobilize resources and seek the necessary support to enhance its capacity to fulfil its human rights obligations (Nigeria);**

131.111 **Intensify efforts, including by seeking technical assistance wherever required, to meet its human rights targets (Sierra Leone).**

132. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Zambia was headed by the Honourable Given Lubinda, Minister of Justice, and composed of the following members:

- Abraham Mwansa, SC, Solicitor General, Ministry of Justice, Zambia;
- Mrs. Natasha B. Museba, Ag. Principal Counsel, Ministry of Justice, Zambia;
- Mr. Vanny Hampondela, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Ministry of Justice, Zambia;
- Mr. Iven M. Sikanyiti, Assistant Director-Social Statistics, Central Statistical Office, Zambia;
- Mr. Joseph Chifulo, Economist, Ministry of Finance, Zambia;
- Mr. Stephen Chiwele, Chief Social Welfare Officer, Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, Zambia;
- Mrs. Margaret Kaemba, Chargé d'affaires, Permanent Mission for Zambia in Geneva;
- Mr. Inyambo Liboma, Counsellor — Legal, Permanent Mission for Zambia in Geneva;
- Mr. Samson Lungo, First Secretary-Consular/Political, Permanent Mission for Zambia in Geneva.

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Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Japan

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-eighth session from 6 to 17 November 2017. The review of Japan was held at the 13th meeting, on 14 November 2017. The delegation of Japan was headed by Yoshifumi Okamura, Representative of the Government of Japan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary for Human Rights. At its 17th meeting, held on 16 November 2017, the Working Group adopted the report on Japan.

2. On 13 February 2017, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Japan: Belgium, Qatar and Togo.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Japan:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/JPN/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/JPN/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/JPN/3 and Corr.1).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay was transmitted to Japan through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. Japan had placed importance on fundamental values such as democracy, freedom, human rights and the rule of law for more than 70 years, since the end of the Second World War.

6. Japan put emphasis on the universal periodic review and was honoured to report on the progress in protecting and promoting human rights over the past five years.

7. Japan had concluded the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

8. As a member of the Human Rights Council from Asia, Japan had been encouraging human rights protection through the submission of resolutions in the Council and through bilateral dialogues. Japan also continued to actively promote development cooperation.

9. In order to realize "a society in which all women shine", Japan had formulated the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality and the Intensive Policy to Accelerate the Empowerment of Women, had enforced the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation and Advancement in the Workplace and had held the fourth World Assembly for Women.

10. Japan hoped that the Olympic and Paralympic Games, which would be hosted in Tokyo in 2020, would be an opportunity to foster an inclusive society and was aiming for the realization of a "society with the dynamic engagement of all citizens". In particular, Japan had enforced the Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities.

11. Japan had implemented various measures to eradicate sexual exploitation of children and tackle sexual offences and human trafficking, such as formulating the Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation, revising the Penal Code, revising the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons and amending the Act on Punishment of Organized Crimes and Control of Crime Proceeds.

12. On the protection of the human rights of all people, including foreign nationals, Japan had enforced the Hate Speech Elimination Act.

13. Under the amended Criminal Procedure Code, all detained suspects were eligible for court-appointed defence counsel, and audiovisual recording of interrogations was mandatory in cases specified by the Code.

14. Regarding the substitute detention system, besides the amendment noted above, the time, duration and manner of interrogations by the police were controlled by a national regulation. Furthermore, it was the judges who decided the reason or need for detention.

15. Japan stated that, regarding the comfort women issue, the Foreign Ministers of Japan and the Republic of Korea had confirmed that the issue was "resolved finally and irreversibly". Under the cooperation between the two countries, projects had been carried out for recovering the honour and dignity and healing the psychological wounds of former comfort women, based upon that agreement. Japan would lead the world in making the twenty-first century an era in which women's human rights were not infringed upon.

16. Japan looked forward to having future-oriented and constructive exchanges of views.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

17. During the interactive dialogue, 106 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

18. The Netherlands welcomed the reinforced prosecution of sexual offences and domestic abuse. It regretted the lack of a moratorium on executions.

19. New Zealand welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

20. Norway expressed concerns at the lack of legislation against workplace gender discrimination, and at executions.

21. Panama welcomed the submission of periodic reports to the treaty bodies.

22. Peru appreciated progress regarding the rights of persons with disabilities and gender equality, and the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

23. The Philippines welcomed measures to address the gender pay gap, disparities in inheritance rights between children born in or out of wedlock, and violence against women, as well as the ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

24. Portugal made recommendations.

25. Qatar welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality and the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons, and human rights training for civil servants.

26. The Republic of Korea expressed concern about the so-called "comfort women" issue, emphasizing that the correct education of history was imperative to prevent recurrence of the past wrongdoings. It noted that many victims and civil society groups had found key elements of the Agreement on Comfort Women unacceptable and unsatisfactory. It also noted the adoption of the Hate Speech Elimination Act.

27. The Republic of Moldova welcomed the criminalization of sexual exploitation of children, the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and its implementation act, and the commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals.

28. The Russian Federation expressed concerns at persisting issues relating to national and ethnic minorities and reports of infringements of freedom of the media by State authorities.

29. Rwanda welcomed the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and encouraged measures to address underrepresentation of women in decision-making positions.

30. Saudi Arabia welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

31. Senegal appreciated the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality, and amendments to the Penal Code providing for harsher punishments for sexual crimes.

32. Serbia welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and its implementation act, and measures to combat sexual exploitation of children.

33. Sierra Leone welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its enactment into law, the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons, the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality, and measures to combat sexual exploitation of children.

34. Singapore commended the implementation of laws and programmes to fulfil the obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the entry into force in Japan of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

35. Slovenia welcomed legislative and policy progress towards gender equality, while encouraging the revision of educational textbooks.

36. Spain welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality.

37. Sri Lanka appreciated the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, and legislative and policy measures to improve gender equality and to combat sexual exploitation of children.

38. The State of Palestine welcomed efforts to improve education and to empower women.

39. The Sudan welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation and Advancement in the Workplace. It was concerned at the gender wage gap.

40. Sweden made recommendations.

41. Switzerland regretted the absence of a moratorium on executions and expressed concerns at the *daiyo kangoku* detention system. It welcomed progress in eliminating discrimination based on sexual orientation.

42. Thailand welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, and efforts on human rights education.

43. Timor-Leste commended the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation and Advancement in the Workplace, the criminalization of possession of child pornography, the promotion of universal access to health care, and the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

44. Togo appreciated the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, its enactment into law, and programmes, and the ratification of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

45. Tunisia welcomed programmes aimed at training officials on human rights, addressing violence against women, protecting children's rights, and combating harassment.

46. Turkey appreciated the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality and the human rights education programmes for public servants.

47. Uganda welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

48. Ukraine encouraged further efforts towards the domestication of international human rights law.

49. The United Kingdom encouraged Japan to adopt a moratorium on executions. It welcomed the ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

50. The United States welcomed efforts to reduce discrimination against certain groups, while regretting that legislative gaps remained in that regard. It was concerned about the regulatory framework that inhibited broadcast media.

51. Uruguay welcomed steps to include the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women into national legislation, and to combat violence against women.

52. Uzbekistan expressed concerns at reports of hate speech and incitement to violence in the media.

53. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed efforts towards eliminating discrimination and promoting universal access to basic health services, and the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It was concerned about the increased number of persons condemned to death and executed.

54. Viet Nam welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality.

55. Yemen welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality and the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

56 Zambia noted that most of the supported recommendations of the previous universal periodic review had not been implemented.

57. Afghanistan welcomed the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and efforts to prevent all forms of discrimination in the workplace, education and health care.

58. Algeria appreciated the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality, and measures to penalize sexual crimes, reinforce child protection and combat trafficking in persons. It encouraged the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

59. Angola welcomed the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and human rights education programmes for civil servants.

60. Argentina welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its enactment into law.

61. Australia commended the ratification of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, while

expressing concern about the continued implementation of the death penalty and inhumane conditions for those awaiting execution.

62. Austria welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

63. Azerbaijan appreciated the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons. It encouraged Japan to create an independent national human rights institution.

64. Bahrain welcomed the Act on Punishment of the Preparation of Acts of Terrorism and Other Organized Crimes.

65. Bangladesh appreciated the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Act on the Promotion of Efforts to Eliminate Unfair Discriminatory Speech and Behaviour against Persons Originating from Outside Japan. It expressed concerns about conditions in the workplace.

66. Belarus welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, and the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality. It expressed concerns at reports of persisting problems regarding sexual exploitation of children, lack of legal protection for journalists, and the recently adopted Act on the Protection of Specially Designated Secrets.

67. Belgium welcomed progress on children's rights and highlighted the need for further progress in the areas of gender equality and violence against women. It encouraged Japan to launch a thorough public debate on the death penalty.

68. Benin commended cooperation with the special procedures and appreciated the support by Japan for the economic and social development of the least developed countries.

69. Bhutan welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

70. Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

71. Botswana welcomed the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality, aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women. It noted the absence of a specific law defining racial discrimination.

72. Brazil expressed concern about the possible risks to journalists regarding the Act on the Protection of Specially Designated Secrets. It welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and amendments to the Penal Code to address sexual crimes.

73. Brunei Darussalam appreciated the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the subsequent enactment into law.

74. Japan emphasized that each recommendation from the United Nations human rights mechanisms would be duly considered and appropriately dealt with, taking into account various aspects including the Sustainable Development Goals.

75. "Unity in diversity" — accepting and respecting the differences of others — was one of the core concepts for the Olympic and Paralympic Games being held in Tokyo in 2020.

76. Japan had been monitoring the implementation of the Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities and would make necessary revisions.

77. On business and human rights, Japan would develop and publish its national action plan in the coming years.

78. Japan had continuously held meetings of the Council for Ainu Policy Promotion, with Ainu representation, to promote comprehensive policy.

79. Regarding child pornography, Japan had strengthened the crackdown and promoted various measures to prevent damage and support victims. Those steps would be followed up on every year.

80. Japan had established ad hoc human rights counselling centres at welfare facilities for the elderly. Japan had taken measures to protect elderly persons suffering elder abuse and to support elderly persons' caregivers etc., based on the law.

81. Japan had deleted the Civil Code provision concerning children born out of wedlock, in December 2013. Japan was conducting human rights education in schools and communities, taking into consideration students' developmental stages as well as local circumstances.

82. Japan was considering submitting a bill to the Diet as soon as possible to make the marriage age 18 for men and women.

83. Japan reported that allowing same-sex marriage or introducing a partnership system at the national level should be given careful consideration.

84. Japan reported that it examined appropriately whether applicants for refugee status, including applicants from Myanmar, were Convention refugees, while considering the circumstances of their home countries as well as their individual circumstances.

85. Article 14 of the Constitution guaranteed the principle of equality before the law.

86. Based on the 2014 action plan, Japan was continuing to take a holistic approach to eradicating human trafficking, including by enhancing protection and support for victims.

87. Japan had granted special permission to stay, for all victims of trafficking in persons illegally staying in Japan.

88. Regarding the conclusion of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, careful consideration was needed.

89. Japan noted that it had a provisional stay system for applicants for refugee status who did not have resident status. It reported that deportation was suspended while the application was pending and that provisional release was applied flexibly in cases where the person had been detained.

90. Japan had enacted the new act on the technical intern training system, which had relevant provisions and penalties to protect the human rights of trainees, in November 2017.

91. Freedom of expression, including that of the press, was a fundamental human right fully guaranteed by the Constitution and domestic laws, and government officials had never put pressure on journalists. The Broadcast Act was established within a framework of autonomy and independence of broadcasters, and ensured that broadcasters enjoyed some of the freest media circumstances.

92. Regarding violence against women, Japan had implemented measures based on law. For foreign victims in particular, language barriers had been addressed.

93. Japan had achieved a reduction in the number of long-term patients in medical hospitals during the present decade. Japan promoted deinstitutionalization for the mentally disabled, by expanding resources for community-based care.

94. Bulgaria welcomed the Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities and the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

95. Cabo Verde welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It encouraged Japan to reduce the gender wage gap and to take steps to increase women's participation in decision-making processes.

96. Canada commended the ratification and implementation of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, and the promotion of equality by voting in favour of the Human Rights Council resolutions on sexual orientation and gender identity.

97. Chad welcomed the ratification of several human rights conventions.

98. Chile asked about measures taken to ensure the rights of children born out of wedlock in conformity with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

99. China noted with concern that gender inequality remained grave, and deplored the lack of compensation for "comfort women".

100. Colombia welcomed the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation and Advancement in the Workplace and the ratification of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

101. Costa Rica appreciated the educational training programmes on human rights for civil servants, and measures to fight trafficking in persons.

102. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

103. Croatia welcomed the Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation, and the ratification of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It expressed concern about the practice of corporal punishment and the death penalty.

104. Cuba noted the gender wage gap and the low level of women's representation in leadership positions.

105. Cyprus welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality. It encouraged Japan to continue its combat against trafficking in persons.

106. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea expressed concern about the persistent human rights violations, including discrimination, hate speech, massive surveillance and restrictions on freedom of expression.

107. Denmark welcomed the call by the Japan Federation of Bar Associations for abolition of the death penalty by 2020.

108. Egypt welcomed continued efforts to advance human rights.

109. Ethiopia appreciated Japan's international cooperation, which contributed to the promotion and protection of human rights.

110. Finland welcomed the efforts of Japan to promote gender equality, as well as the recent accession to instruments such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, while noting that the remaining challenges included the abolition of the death penalty.

111. France noted the ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

112. Georgia commended the ratification of several important international instruments.

113. Germany welcomed the Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, and the progress in advancing children and women's rights.

114. Ghana welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities.

115. Guatemala made recommendations.

116. Haiti welcomed the two laws: one granting divorced women the right to remarry after six months and the other on non-discrimination against persons with disabilities.

117. Honduras welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

118. Iceland welcomed efforts to strengthen gender equality, and to protect women's rights, while stressing the need for improvement.

119. India welcomed the enforcement of the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation and Advancement in the Workplace, the Technical Intern Training Programme, and the Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities.

120. Indonesia appreciated the implementation of various recommendations from the previous universal periodic review.

121. The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the criminalization of human trafficking, and the fight against sexual exploitation of children, child pornography and prostitution.

122. Iraq welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation and Advancement in the Workplace.

123. Ireland noted the lack of a national legal framework for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, and expressed concern at the widening gender pay gap and the underrepresentation of women in managerial and political positions.

124. Israel mentioned the establishment of a Sustainable Development Goals promotion headquarters in Japan to advance the Sustainable Development Goals domestically and internationally.

125. Italy welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Japan's first anti-hate speech law.

126. Kazakhstan noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality, the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons, and the Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation.

127. Kenya welcomed the contribution by Japan to advancing the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights in many parts of the developing world.

128. Kyrgyzstan welcomed efforts to promote and protect human rights by strengthening the national legislative and institutional frameworks.

129. The Lao People's Democratic Republic welcomed the implementation of the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation and Advancement in the Workplace.

130. Libya welcomed efforts to implement the supported recommendations from the last universal periodic review.

131. Liechtenstein noted that Japan had not yet established an independent national human rights institution.

132. Madagascar welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality.

133. Malaysia welcomed strengthened efforts to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, and women's rights.

134. Maldives welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities and the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation and Advancement in the Workplace.

135. Mexico welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

136. Mongolia welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its enactment into law. It encouraged Japan to strengthen efforts to prevent child abuse and violence against women, including foreign victims.

137. Montenegro praised the promotion of women's rights and initiatives to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, while expressing concern about the high suspension rate of sentences for offences involving sexual exploitation of children.

138. Morocco welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and human rights training for civil servants.

139. Myanmar welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in 2014, and its enactment into law.

140. Nepal welcomed the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, while expressing concern about the continued use of the death penalty.

141. Paraguay welcomed the accession to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, and the Law on the Elimination of Discrimination against People with Disabilities.

142. Pakistan welcomed the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality and the ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

143. Armenia welcomed human rights education programmes for civil servants and measures to promote women's and children's rights, and the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

144. Japan reported that it considered the individual communication procedure to be noteworthy and that it would continue serious consideration on the matter.

145. Japan noted that human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity should not be tolerated. Japan continued to make efforts to prevent discrimination.

146. Regarding the situation in Fukushima, health management surveys for the people of Fukushima were conducted every year. The ratio of effective job offers in Fukushima was above 1:1. However, the number of employees in the evacuation areas had not recovered to previous levels. Mental health care was being provided to children affected by the disaster.

147. Japan believed that each sovereign country should be allowed to make decisions on the issue of the death penalty independently. Domestic public opinion, the existence of extremely vicious crimes and other factors made it inappropriate to abolish the death penalty. A moratorium was also inappropriate, since the final judgement must be executed impartially and thoroughly under the rule of law.

148. Japan reported its progress in improving prison conditions, including medical care and heating and cooling, and indicated that inmates sentenced to death were treated in appropriate conditions.

149. Japan was examining what the most appropriate human rights remedy system would be, on the basis of the discussions heretofore. At 311 legal affairs bureaux, officials as well as 14,000 human rights volunteers were engaged in human rights counselling, activities on remediation, and awareness-raising activities.

150. Japan recognized that there was the development of a widespread notion that discriminatory speech was not tolerated in society.

151. Japan was working to reduce the gender pay gap by promoting women's empowerment and improving workplace environments so that women could continue working while parenting.

152. Japan had formulated the Intensive Policy to Accelerate the Empowerment of Women and had enhanced women's empowerment through "visualizing" current situations of female employment in the workplace.

153. Japan had been making wide-ranging efforts to protect the human rights of suspects, through the aforementioned measures on the substitute detention system.

154. The Prime Minister's statement on 14 August 2015 was Japan's recognition of history on the past war.

155. Japan had appropriately made the decision to not designate Democratic People's Republic of Korea schools for the High School Enrolment Support Fund system, in accordance with the intent of the relevant laws.

156. Nobody had been punished for violating the Act on the Protection of Specially Designated Secrets and there were no circumstances in which the press was daunted.

157. Japan recognized that the comfort women issue was one that had severely injured the honour and dignity of many women, and had extended its heartfelt apologies and remorse to the former comfort women.

158. Japan stated that the issues of reparations, properties and claims arising from the war had been settled through treaties, agreements and instruments between Japan and the countries concerned.

159. Japan stated that "forceful taking away" of comfort women by the military and government authorities and the figure of "200,000 persons" as the total number of comfort women could not be confirmed in any of the documents in the full-scale fact-finding study in the early 1990s. Japan also stated that referring to comfort women as "sex slaves" was inappropriate, as it contradicted the facts.

160. In conclusion, Japan thanked the delegations for their constructive and valuable comments and reiterated its continued commitment to cooperate with the universal periodic review and make efforts for the protection and promotion of human rights.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

161. **The following recommendations will be examined by Japan, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council:**

161.1 **Consider lifting existing reservations to the international human rights treaties (Ukraine);**

161.2 **Consider recognizing the competence of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to receive and consider individual complaints (Kazakhstan);**

161.3 **Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Slovenia);**

161.4 **Consider the abolition of the death penalty in its legislation, and proceed to the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Argentina);**

161.5 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Montenegro) (Spain) (Sweden) (Togo);**

161.6 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and in the meantime, establish a moratorium on execution (Croatia); establish an immediate formal moratorium on executions and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Germany);**

161.7 **Establish a moratorium on the application of the death penalty and consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Mongolia);**

161.8 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Second Optional Protocol aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and in the meantime, declare an**

official moratorium on executions with a view to abolish the death penalty, commuting the death sentences to prison terms (Uruguay);

161.9 **Ratify the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Guatemala);**

161.10 **Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);**

161.11 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Bosnia and Herzegovina);**

161.12 **Consider ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Georgia);**

161.13 **Consider the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);**

161.14 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Panama) (Togo) (Turkey);**

161.15 **Continue to take measures to fight all discrimination and stereotyping against women, in law and in practice, and, in this regard, ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Brazil);**

161.16 **Ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Panama);**

161.17 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Cabo Verde) (Ukraine) (Uruguay);**

161.18 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment as soon as possible (Ghana);**

161.19 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark) (Spain) (Turkey) (Yemen);**

161.20 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Uruguay);**

161.21 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Egypt) (Kyrgyzstan) (Senegal) (Sierra Leone) (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela); accede to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Honduras);**

161.22 **Ratify promptly the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Guatemala);**

161.23 **Sign and ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Turkey);**

161.24 **Continue the deliberation among relevant institutions and stakeholders with a view to ratify the International Convention on the**

Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and to expand discussions with representatives from the state parties to the Convention in the region (Indonesia);

161.25 **Continue taking serious consideration on the ratification of the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Philippines);**

161.26 **Ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);**

161.27 **Ratify the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute on the crime of aggression (Liechtenstein);**

161.28 **Accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Costa Rica);**

161.29 **Consider ratifying the ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111) (Cabo Verde);**

161.30 **Ratify the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) (Guatemala);**

161.31 **Sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Guatemala);**

161.32 **Adopt an open, merit-based selection process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

161.33 **Continue cooperating with the Human Rights Council to implement the initiatives undertaken for the well-being and the full enjoyment of human rights of its population (Chad);**

161.34 **Continue to focus on the Sustainable Development Goals in its international engagements, especially those related to education, health, sanitation and poverty alleviation (Pakistan);**

161.35 **Continue to provide support for African development, through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development process (Sierra Leone);**

161.36 **Continue its leadership role in supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals as exemplified, among others, by the pledge to contribute USD 1.1 billion for SDG 3 (Bhutan);**

161.37 **Continue efforts towards the establishment of an independent national human rights institution in full accordance with the Paris Principles (Georgia); continue efforts to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Malaysia) (Qatar) (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

161.38 **Accelerate its efforts to establish a National Human Rights Commission, ensuring its independence and full compliance with the Paris Principles (Australia); accelerate efforts towards the establishment of a Paris Principles-compliant national human rights institution (Philippines);**

161.39 **Take the necessary steps to establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles, with competence to consider and act on complaints of human rights violations by public authorities, and with adequate financial and human resources (Republic of Moldova);**

161.40 **Promote the drafting of a new law in order to establish a National Institution of Human Rights in accordance with the Paris Principles (Costa Rica);**

161.41 **Enhance efforts to establish an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Rwanda);**

161.42 **Take necessary steps to establish a credible national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Uganda);**

161.43 **Consider establishing an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Ukraine); consider establishing an independent national human rights institution (Azerbaijan); consider establishing a national human rights institution based on accepted principles (Ethiopia); consider taking steps to establish an independent National Human Rights Institution (India); consider the establishment of an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Afghanistan) (Panama);**

161.44 **Establish an independent National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Chile) (Colombia) (Croatia) (Finland) (Sierra Leone); establish rapidly an impartial national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (France); establish an independent National Human Rights Institution, in compliance with the Principles relating to the status of National Institutions of promotion and protection of human rights (Guatemala); establish an independent, impartial and credible national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Kenya); establish an independent national human rights institution with a broad mandate and matching resources in line with the Paris Principles (Nepal);**

161.45 **Establish, within a clear time frame, an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles and ensure that its mandate covers women's rights and gender equality (Liechtenstein);**

161.46 **Strengthen the work of the Bureau as well as to continue the effort to establish a National Human Rights Commission in Japan (Indonesia);**

161.47 **Complete the process of establishing the National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Kazakhstan);**

161.48 **Establish an independent national human rights institution and another institution to advocate the rights of the child (Iraq);**

161.49 **Establish a National Human Rights Institution in compliance with the Paris Principles and to eliminate any forms of discrimination against foreigners (Sudan);**

161.50 **Continue to strengthen national institutions responsible for human rights (Morocco);**

161.51 **Continue efforts to raise awareness and educate about human rights at all levels (Morocco);**

161.52 **Proceed in the development of effective tools to measure the impact of existing schemes for human rights education, both in the short and long term (Israel);**

161.53 **Expand human rights education for law enforcement officers (Viet Nam);**

161.54 **Redouble efforts to sensitize and to train law enforcement officials on human rights criteria related to their fields of work (Qatar);**

161.55 **Provide effective training to public services personnel in the application of non-discrimination laws and standards in order to combat prejudice and discriminatory behaviour (Bangladesh);**

161.56 **Adopt a number of legislative and practical measures designed to combat manifestation of racial discrimination (Russian Federation);**

161.57 **Adopt a legislative measure prohibiting and repressing all forms of discrimination against non-citizens, and a law eliminating the stereotypes that constitute the cause of violence against women (Madagascar);**

161.58 **Eliminate legislative provisions that are discriminatory against women, children born out of wedlock, ethnic or national minorities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex persons, with a view to expressly prohibiting hate speech and penalizing any non-consensual sexual conduct (Mexico);**

161.59 **Adopt a broadly applicable anti-discrimination law, including a comprehensive definition of discrimination, with a view to ensuring the prohibition of all forms of direct and indirect discrimination, including on the basis of age, gender, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity or nationality (Netherlands);**

161.60 **Revise its laws to establish a broadly applicable anti-discrimination law which also effectively criminalizes hate speech (Sierra Leone);**

161.61 **Enact a law prohibiting discrimination, including on the basis of age, gender, religion, sexual orientation or ethnicity, and that other necessary measures be undertaken to ensure gender equality (Norway);**

161.62 **Continue the process of improving the implementation of anti-discrimination legislation (Côte d'Ivoire);**

161.63 **Adopt and implement a comprehensive anti-discrimination law that would prohibit and sanction any direct or indirect form of discrimination based on age, race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, ethnic origin or nationality (Germany);**

161.64 **Promulgate an anti-discrimination law, based on article 14, paragraph 1 of the Japanese Constitution, which prohibits all forms of discrimination, especially against foreigners (Haiti);**

161.65 **Adopt comprehensive legislation to combat discrimination in line with its international obligations and standards, which includes discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Honduras);**

161.66 **Adopt an anti-discrimination law that can be widely applied (Iraq);**

161.67 **Adopt an anti-discrimination law with adequate and corresponding penal provisions to protect victims (Kenya);**

161.68 **Strengthen efforts to prevent and combat every kind of discrimination, including by adopting a comprehensive law and by means of awareness campaigns (Italy);**

161.69 **Continue and deepen the implementation of measures to avoid and prevent discrimination against minorities and indigenous populations, including through consultations with the different indigenous peoples (Paraguay);**

161.70 **Take steps to address discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, including revising the Gender Identity Disorder Law (New Zealand);**

161.71 **Continue the positive developments related to the elimination of discrimination based on sexual orientation and recognize same-sex unions at the national level (Switzerland);**

161.72 **Implement comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation to protect and promote the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (United States of America);**

161.73 **Further the efforts of some local governments and private firms to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity,**

including by extending at the national level formal recognition of same-sex partnerships (Canada);

161.74 **Continue developing the implementation of actions against any kind of discrimination for gender, ethnicity, skin colour, sexual orientation and gender identity, among others (Colombia);**

161.75 **Move quickly to introduce comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation to provide equal protection against discrimination for all persons and on all grounds, including sexual orientation or gender identity (Ireland);**

161.76 **Continue with the ongoing efforts to fight discrimination against non-citizens on the basis of race or nationality, including by ensuring that appropriate legislation sanctioning such acts is applied effectively and all alleged cases are investigated (Ghana);**

161.77 **Strengthen efforts designed to prohibit racist and xenophobic discourses (Saudi Arabia);**

161.78 **Continue to take effective measures to combat all forms of discrimination, including racial superiority and hatred, and to eliminate gender stereotypes (Uzbekistan);**

161.79 **Continue implementing measures to eradicate all forms of discrimination, including against people with other origins (Cuba);**

161.80 **Take appropriate measures and implement legislation effectively to eliminate racial discrimination (Guatemala);**

161.81 **Take appropriate measures to eliminate exclusion of non-citizens from accessing some public places and facilities on the basis of race or nationality, by effectively applying legislation and investigating and sanctioning such acts (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

161.82 **Conduct more active policy against racial discrimination, including addressing the issue of incorporating an adequate definition of racial discrimination in national legislation (Kyrgyzstan);**

161.83 **Adopt a comprehensive law on racial discrimination, with an adequate definition of racial discrimination, in accordance with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Botswana);**

161.84 **Take further steps to effectively address hate speech and protect the rights of minorities, including introducing legislation to prohibit discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity (Australia);**

161.85 **Continue to address the problem of discrimination and hate speech, particularly through adequate allocation of resources on this issue through education and awareness programmes in schools (Malaysia);**

161.86 **Repeal all state policy and regulations which condone discrimination against and harassment of Koreans in Japan (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

161.87 **Thoroughly accept legal state responsibility for and take sincere measures to address its past crimes against humanity, including sexual slavery (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

161.88 **Face up to and reflect on history, sincerely apologize on the issue of "comfort women", make compensations to the victims, and ensure the right of the public to information in this regard (China);**

161.89 **Make efforts to ensure that the future generations learn the truth of history, including the issue of so-called "comfort women" (Republic of Korea);**

161.90 **Take the necessary measures to ensure that Japanese companies take into consideration the respect of human rights in their activities abroad (Algeria);**

161.91 **Consider a possibility of establishing a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, pursuant to the Guiding Principles adopted by the Human Rights Council (Chile);**

161.92 **Formulate a national work plan for the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to ensure that multinational companies headquartered in Japan do not violate human rights (Egypt);**

161.93 **Establish a national regulatory framework, in accordance with United Nations guidelines, for the assessment of human rights and the environmental impact of the business activities of multinational corporations headquartered in Japan (Haiti);**

161.94 **Adopt a national action plan pursuant to the United Nations guidance on multinational corporations to guard against human rights violations (Kenya);**

161.95 **Consider applying a moratorium on executions, with a view to ultimately abolishing the death penalty (Cyprus); consider introducing a moratorium on capital executions with a view to fully abolishing the death penalty (Italy);**

161.96 **Consider introducing a moratorium on executions as a first step towards the abolition of the death penalty, and commute all death sentences to terms of imprisonment (Republic of Moldova);**

161.97 **Take immediate measures to introduce a formal moratorium on executions and take concrete steps towards the total abolition of the death penalty (Norway); take measures to introduce a de jure moratorium on executions and take concrete steps towards the abolition of the death penalty (Rwanda);**

161.98 **Adopt the necessary measures to abolish the death penalty and establish a moratorium on executions (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

161.99 **Establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, as a first step towards the complete abolition of this practice, and initiate a broad public debate on the death penalty with a view to its final abolition (New Zealand); set up an official moratorium for the definitive abolition of the death penalty and facilitate the holding of debate on this issue (France); conduct a national debate on the establishment of a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, with a view to its abolition (Mexico);**

161.100 **Establish an official moratorium on executions and abolish the death penalty for all crimes (Iceland); introduce a formal moratorium on executions (Belgium); immediately introduce a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Sweden); establish a moratorium on executions, followed by eventual abolition of the death penalty (Finland); apply a new moratorium on the death penalty with the aim of proceeding towards the final abolition of capital punishment (Spain); establish a moratorium on the application of the death penalty, with a view to abolishing capital punishment before the next universal periodic review session (Brazil); introduce a formal and immediate moratorium on executions as a first step towards the abolition of the death penalty and to commute all death sentences to terms of imprisonment, in line with international human rights standards (Netherlands); put in force an immediate moratorium on the death penalty (Denmark); establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, as a first step towards complete abolition of this practice and as a way of reassuring the**

Japanese public that adequate law enforcement does not require the state to carry out executions (Australia);

161.101 **Introduce a moratorium and instigate a public debate on the abolition of the death penalty, while also addressing how best to support victims and their families (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

161.102 **Consider abolition of the death penalty (Timor-Leste);**

161.103 **Consider abolition of the death penalty and implementation of an immediate moratorium on executions (Liechtenstein);**

161.104 **Make progress on the abolition of the death penalty (Colombia);**

161.105 **Abolish the death penalty (Paraguay) (Portugal);**

161.106 **Abolish the death penalty and modify the penitentiary regulations to strictly limit solitary confinement (Panama);**

161.107 **Introduce a system of mandatory appeal in cases where the death penalty has been handed down (Switzerland);**

161.108 **Ensure the protection of the rights of those sentenced to death, by guaranteeing among other things the suspensive effect of any appeal request or claim to review the trial (France);**

161.109 **Designate an official body for a comprehensive review and recommendations in view to promote an informed debate on the reform of the death penalty (Austria);**

161.110 **Review its death penalty policy and strongly consider a moratorium on the use of capital punishment, and to engage in public debate about the future use of the death penalty (Canada);**

161.111 **Improve prison conditions with the aim of aligning them to international norms and standards on the treatment of prisoners (Spain);**

161.112 **Improve the treatment of all prisoners as regards medical and dental care, heating in winter, cooling in summer as well as the nutritional quality of the food served (Sweden);**

161.113 **Improve prison conditions to bring them in line with internationally accepted standards and guidelines (Zambia);**

161.114 **Follow the appropriate United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners in order to improve detention conditions by providing: better and timelier medical and dental treatment; appropriate provisions to withstand the cold winter temperatures in prisons; and larger servings of food to inmates (Canada);**

161.115 **Bring the prison and detention conditions in line with international human rights norms and standards, including the Nelson Mandela Rules (Denmark);**

161.116 **Continue its efforts in the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children domestically in an appropriate manner (Pakistan);**

161.117 **Continue to combat human trafficking (Senegal);**

161.118 **Continue to enhance its legislative and protection frameworks to combat and prevent all forms of trafficking in persons (Singapore);**

161.119 **Strengthen its efforts to combat trafficking in persons, including by formulating a comprehensive anti-trafficking legal framework, especially in order to protect women and children from exploitation (Thailand);**

161.120 **Further intensify investigation, prosecution and adequate sanctions in all cases of human trafficking (Turkey);**

161.121 **Strengthen measures to combat trafficking in persons, in particular those related to the sexual exploitation of women and children (Algeria);**

161.122 **Continue exerting further efforts to improve access of victims of trafficking and sexual violence to complaints mechanisms and protection services (Azerbaijan);**

161.123 **Redouble its efforts against human trafficking and adopt a specific action plan for the protection and compensation of victims (Honduras);**

161.124 **Enact an anti-human trafficking law to protect human rights of migrants from violations by recruitment agencies, brokers and employers (Kenya);**

161.125 **Take adequate measures to effectively address violence against foreign, minority and indigenous women by prosecuting and sanctioning all forms of violence, and ensuring that victims have access to immediate means of redress and protection (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

161.126 **Explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in all settings by law (Montenegro);**

161.127 **Expressly prohibit corporal punishment in all settings (Zambia);**

161.128 **Take into full consideration the recommendations made by the United Nations human rights mechanisms on hate speech (Republic of Korea);**

161.129 **Comprehensive measures including legislative means to ensure independence of media (Russian Federation);**

161.130 **Review the legal framework governing broadcast media and, in particular, that the Government review and repeal Article 4 of the Broadcast Act (United States of America);**

161.131 **Create an independent administrative body to regulate broadcast media (United States of America);**

161.132 **Continue to guarantee the independence of the media, including by reviewing the current legal framework governing the broadcast media, and to strengthen media independence by removing the legal basis for undue government interference (Austria);**

161.133 **Adopt necessary measures to create the necessary conditions for the activities of a free independent mass media (Belarus);**

161.134 **Refraining from the practice of surveillance and intrusion into the private lives of representatives of religious minorities (Russian Federation);**

161.135 **Continue to improve the national system of administration of justice, including guarantees for the rights of persons being held in detention (Russian Federation);**

161.136 **Authorize the defendant to immediately have access to a lawyer and limit the detention period without charges to a maximum of 48 hours, as a step towards abolishing this system (Switzerland);**

161.137 **Continue ongoing reforms in the field of justice and criminal procedure with a view to an in-depth review of the system of substitute detention (*daiyō kangoku*) (France);**

161.138 **Consider improving the basic pension scheme for the elderly, in consultation with their representatives within the associations, so as to guarantee them sufficient resources to cover their living expenses (Haiti);**

161.139 **Intensify its efforts towards poverty reduction and sustainable development (Timor-Leste);**

161.140 **Strengthen regulations that set limits on extending working hours with a view to capping work-related deaths and suicides (Botswana);**

161.141 **Adopt specific measures to rectify labour standards violations as a follow-up to inspections conducted on the Technical Intern Training Programme (Portugal);**

161.142 **Continue efforts to protect workers' rights to safe and healthy working conditions (Iraq);**

161.143 **Consider amplifying the application of the Relief Act for the Victims of the Atomic Bomb to the second generation of the survivors of atomic bombs, particularly in health issues (Costa Rica);**

161.144 **Develop community-based and people-centred mental health services and supports that do not lead to institutionalization, over medicalization and to practices that fail to respect the rights, will and preferences of all persons (Portugal);**

161.145 **Ensure that the "Tuition Waiver and Tuition Support Fund Programme for High School Education" is extended to all schools in the country, including those that are under the responsibility of local governments (Portugal);**

161.146 **Continue in its efforts to ensure full access to education enrolment to all and to remove any obstacles that minority communities may face, particularly in reference to equal access to education for women and girls (State of Palestine);**

161.147 **Promote equal access for women and girls to all levels of education (Timor-Leste);**

161.148 **Continue promoting equal access for women and girls to all levels of education (Bosnia and Herzegovina);**

161.149 **Strengthen their efforts aimed at empowering women, in particular through continuing to improve access for women and girls to quality education (Cyprus);**

161.150 **Ensure that minority children enjoy the right to education without discrimination, in line with the recommendations by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Austria);**

161.151 **Take measures to extend the "Tuition Waiver and Tuition Support Fund Program for High School Education" to children attending Korean schools and ensure equal treatment of Korean schools in accordance with the recommendations of relevant United Nations treaty bodies (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

161.152 **Further strengthen the promotion of gender equality and protect women from all forms of discrimination and violence (Myanmar);**

161.153 **Continue to protect vulnerable groups, in particular women, children as well as foreigners (Senegal);**

161.154 **Ensure the effective implementation of the 4th Basic Plan for Gender Equality with particular focus on the "Reformation of "men-oriented working styles" for women's empowerment" (Bahrain);**

161.155 **Continue its efforts in the advancement of the protection of the rights of women, gender equality and the promotion of gender-equal society by implementing the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality (Bulgaria);**

161.156 **Continue the implementation of the Basic Plan for gender equality (Cuba);**

161.157 **Continue its efforts for the promotion and protection of gender equality (Iceland);**

161.158 **Step up its efforts to improve gender empowerment and women's rights nationally and continue to contribute at regional and global levels (Indonesia);**

161.159 **Strengthen the legislative framework to promote gender equality, in particular in the field of employment (Belgium);**

161.160 **Focus on the successful implementation of the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation and Advancement in the Workplace as well as to share its best practices of their experiences in the achievement of women employees in the country (Brunei Darussalam);**

161.161 **Step up its efforts to encourage enterprises to take positive measures to narrow the gender pay gap, including regarding women's access to managerial positions (Ireland);**

161.162 **Continue implementing the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation and Advancement in the Workplace, including through the monitoring of the stated goals in the action plans published by relevant government bodies and private companies (Israel);**

161.163 **Intensify efforts directed to eliminating discrimination against women, including promotion of equal access for women and girls to all levels of education (Kyrgyzstan);**

161.164 **Take effective measures to address gender inequality, combat domestic violence and sexual exploitation, and effectively protect women's and children's rights (China);**

161.165 **Adopt a comprehensive definition of discrimination against women in line with article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Slovenia);**

161.166 **Make efforts to guarantee gender wage equality, including those aimed at women's access to management positions (Paraguay);**

161.167 **Increase the support for the presence of women in the workplace with active policies for the promotion of employment and reconciliation measures that allow for this (Spain);**

161.168 **Intensify its efforts to eliminate the gender wage gap (Sudan);**

161.169 **Ensure decent work without discrimination by enhancing effective implementation of the Basic Plan for Gender Equality and the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation in the Workplace, and by ensuring reasonable wages and safe working conditions for foreign workers, particularly those under the Technical Internship and Training Program (Thailand);**

161.170 **Continue efforts to eliminate discrimination against women and establish full gender equality, especially in the labour market and at the salary level (Tunisia);**

161.171 **Intensify efforts to reduce wage inequality on the basis of gender (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

161.172 **Enact legislation to ensure equal pay for equal work to both men and women in order to maintain gender parity and prevent discrimination based on gender (India);**

161.173 **Continue efforts to implement recommendations 151 and 152 from the previous universal periodic review on the gender pay gap and women's participation in decision-making processes (Benin);**

161.174 **Continue its efforts to combat all forms of violence against women and to create conditions of assistance in order to facilitate the protection of victims of violence (Angola);**

161.175 **Continue the work for eradication of violence against women and children, including sexual violence (Kyrgyzstan);**

161.176 **Intensify the comprehensive approaches in eliminating sexual exploitation among women and girls (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

161.177 **Additional reform of the Penal Code to raise the age of sexual consent and prohibit spousal rape (New Zealand);**

161.178 **Reinforce measures to prevent and combat gender-based violence, particularly in the fight against human trafficking, and with special emphasis on the prevention of the sexual exploitation of children and girls (Paraguay);**

161.179 **Investigate all reports of domestic violence, including the same-sex couples (Timor-Leste);**

161.180 **Protect women from sexual violence by expanding the scope of the anti-domestic violence law to other situations than cohabitant couples and by explicitly criminalizing marital rape (Belgium);**

161.181 **Continue with the positive work already being implemented to combat domestic violence, in particular against foreign, minority and indigenous workers and through ensuring that victims have support, care and redress for the abuse (Maldives);**

161.182 **Take measures to reduce inequalities between men and women, in particular by raising the legal age of marriage to 18 years for all (France);**

161.183 **Raise the minimum age of marriage to eighteen for women (Iceland);**

161.184 **Continue to implement measures to advance gender equality in political, administrative and economic spheres (Sri Lanka);**

161.185 **Continue in its efforts to accelerate the achievement of substantive equality for women and men, with a greater focus on women, especially minority women, in decision-making policy positions in the public and private sectors (State of Palestine);**

161.186 **Step up efforts to combat violence against children, including prohibition of corporal punishment (Russian Federation);**

161.187 **Continue with undertaking actions to promote the well-being of children by comprehensive suppression of violence against children (Serbia);**

161.188 **Modify all discriminatory provisions on the social and legal status of children born out of wedlock (Argentina);**

161.189 **Continue with its plans to strengthen child protection and welfare activities, including the introduction of legislation for this purpose (Bhutan);**

161.190 **Establish enforceable domestic child access mechanisms that would allow both parents to maintain on a regular basis personal relations and direct contact with their children in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Canada);**

161.191 **Strengthen efforts to implement the Hague Convention of 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (Italy);**

161.192 **Continue implementation of the Government's "Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation", and supporting and rehabilitation of victims (Sri Lanka);**

161.193 **Further increase its efforts to combat sexual exploitation of children, child pornography and prostitution, and provide assistance to victims of sexual exploitation (Sweden);**

161.194 **Continue efforts to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation by implementing the Basic Plan adopted in April 2017 through measures to combat sexual exploitation of children (Tunisia);**

161.195 **Continue to focus on the priority to combat sexual exploitation of children (Belarus);**

161.196 **Continue efforts to investigate and prosecute crimes related to the sexual exploitation of children (Peru);**

161.197 **Ensure the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in line with national efforts (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

161.198 **Implement fully its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including following the Committee's guidelines on Article 14 to protect the security and personal integrity of persons with disability who are deprived of their liberty (New Zealand);**

161.199 **Carry out necessary reforms to address stigma against persons with disabilities in order to strengthen implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Uganda);**

161.200 **Continue with its efforts to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and eliminate discrimination (Brunei Darussalam);**

161.201 **Continue advancing the situation of persons with disabilities by providing access to education, health, jobs and public spaces as well as protecting from all forms of violence and discrimination (Myanmar);**

161.202 **Continue to expand existing programmes and introduce new ones where necessary to support and to promote the meaningful participation of all persons with disabilities in society (Singapore);**

161.203 **Continue to promote the efforts to make mentally and psychologically disabled persons benefit from the health-care services (Libya);**

161.204 **Continue with encouraging the private business sector to continue undertaking relevant measures to employ persons with disabilities, in accordance with the domestic law provisions (Serbia);**

161.205 **Strengthen measures so that ethnic minorities — Ainu, Ryukyu and Burakumins — can fully enjoy their economic, social and cultural rights (Peru);**

161.206 **Continue efforts for the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers (Nepal);**

161.207 **Strengthen the legal protection for migrant workers to eliminate cases of abuse and exploitation (Uganda);**

161.208 **Continue to strengthen oversight of its Technical Intern Training Programme to ensure migrant workers participating in the programme receive full protection and support commensurate with the Government of Japan's international obligations (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

161.209 **Ensure that suspected abusive employers of migrant workers can be duly prosecuted (Bangladesh);**

161.210 **Continue its efforts to improve the situation of migrant workers and members of their families (Côte d'Ivoire);**

161.211 **Scale up the human rights protection awareness-raising of vulnerable groups, including migrant workers (Ethiopia);**

161.212 **Continue measures to promote working conditions of foreign workers, especially women foreign workers; and to improve their integration into Japanese society (Viet Nam);**

161.213 **Ensure that the refugee status determination process is conducted in a fair, effective and transparent manner in line with international law (Kenya);**

161.214 **Continue providing support for the voluntary evacuees from the high-radiation areas of Fukushima, with housing, financial and other life-assisting means and with periodic health monitoring of those affected, in particular those who were children at the time of the accident (Austria);**

161.215 **Apply the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement to all those impacted by the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster in order to ensure full and equal participation for both women and men in decision-making processes regarding their resettlement (Portugal);**

161.216 **Respect the rights of persons living in the area of Fukushima, in particular of pregnant women and children, to the highest level of physical and mental health, notably by restoring the allowable dose of radiation to the 1 mSv/year limit, and by a continuing support to the evacuees and residents (Germany);**

161.217 **Guarantee access to health services for those affected by the Fukushima nuclear accident, as well as for the generations of survivors of the use of nuclear weapons (Mexico).**

162. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Japan was headed by Mr. Yoshifumi Okamura, Representative of the Government of Japan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary for Human Rights and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Junichi Ihara, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva;
- Ms. Mitsuko Shino, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva;
- Mr. Kansuke Nagaoka, Minister, Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva;
- Mr. Hideo Keage, Deputy Director, Comprehensive Ainu Policy Office, Cabinet Secretariat;
- Ms. Kaoru Ikemura, Deputy Director, General Affairs Division, Gender Equality Bureau, Cabinet Office;
- Mr. Hibiki Tamura, Deputy Director, Gender Equality Promotion Division, Gender Equality Bureau, Cabinet Office;
- Mr. Shinichiro Handa, Director, Detention Management Division, Commissioner General's Secretariat, National Police Agency;
- Mr. Kota Takashi, Assistant Director, International Affairs Division, Commissioner General's Secretariat, National Police Agency;
- Mr. Syunsuke Sakamoto, Assistant Director, Community Safety Planning Division, Community Safety Bureau, National Police Agency;
- Mr. Keiichiro Tao, Assistant Director, Criminal Affairs Planning Division, Criminal Affairs Bureau, National Police Agency;
- Mr. Ryota Shimizu, Assistant Director, Security Planning Division, Security Bureau, National Police Agency;
- Mr. Koichi Fujinami, Director, Information and Communications Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication;
- Ms. Junko Irie, Attorney, Deputy Director, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Yuzuru Hamano, Chief, Office of International Affairs, Secretarial Division, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Yukihiro Saito, Coordinator, Prison Service Division, Correction Bureau, Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Hirokazu Kayawake, Attorney, Human Rights Bureau, Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Dai Saito, Chief, Human Rights Promotion Division, Human Rights Bureau, Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Noriaki Hashimoto, Attorney, Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice;
- Ms. Kaori Miichi, Attorney, Criminal Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Kazuhiro Kurihara, Attorney, Criminal Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Justice;
- Ms. Shiori Nakayama, Official, Criminal Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Justice;

- Mr. Shun Kudo, Planning Unit Chief, Student Affairs Division, Elementary and Secondary Education Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology;
- Mr. Yusuke Nakashima, Unit Chief, International Affairs Division, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology;
- Mr. Yutaka Goda, Deputy Director, Internal Affairs Division, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare;
- Mr. Yusuke Matsubara, Deputy Director, U.S. Facilities Construction and Planning Division, Bureau of Defense Buildup Planning, Ministry of Defense;
- Mr. Akira Oka, Deputy Director, Okinawa Coordination Division, Bureau of Local Cooperation, Ministry of Defense;
- Mr. Masatoshi Sugiura, Director, Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Division, Foreign Policy Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Naoko Uraoka, Attorney, Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Division, Foreign Policy Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Takeshi Ozaki, Official, Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Division, Foreign Policy Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Hiromi Otsuki, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations;
- Ms. Minae Tsuchiya, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations;
- Ms. Tomoko Kubota, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations;
- Mr. Hiroshi Tagami, Attaché, Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations.

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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Ukraine

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-eighth session from 6 to 17 November 2017. The review of Ukraine was held at the 15th meeting, on 15 November 2017. The delegation of Ukraine was headed by the Deputy Minister of Justice for European Integration, Sergiy Petukhov. At its 18th meeting, held on 17 November 2017, the Working Group adopted the report on Ukraine.

2. On 13 February 2017, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Ukraine: Georgia, Netherlands and Rwanda.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Ukraine:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/UKR/1 and Corr. 1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/UKR/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/UKR/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Brazil, Czechia, Germany, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Ukraine through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation of Ukraine began by expressing its full support for the universal periodic review process.

6. Ukraine had adopted its first national human rights strategy in 2015, and a related action plan for the period 2015–2020, following consultation with representatives of civil society.

7. Referring to General Assembly resolutions 68/262 on the territorial integrity of Ukraine and 71/205 on the situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine), the delegation highlighted that the main human rights challenge at the moment was the illegal annexation of Crimea and the occupation of parts of Donbas. It expressed the commitment of Ukraine to ensuring that United Nations and other international human rights mechanisms had a permanent presence in Crimea to fully monitor the human rights situation there. Ukraine would continue using all of the measures available to ensure that the Russian Federation complied with the temporary measures ordered by the International Court of Justice, in particular towards reinstating the Mejlis, a representative body of the indigenous Crimean Tatars, and ensuring the availability of education in Ukrainian.

8. The situation in Donbas remained fragile, and the conflict had already claimed more than 10,000 lives. Ukraine remained committed to the implementation of the ceasefire agreement and implementation package. The deployment of a full-fledged United Nations peacekeeping mission in the occupied territory of Donbas would be a real breakthrough in the process of peaceful settlement. The parliament was currently discussing a draft law on reintegration of the occupied parts of Donbas.

9. The current situation had led to the internal displacement of more than 1.5 million persons in the country, 88 per cent of whom had integrated into the receiving communities. The biggest obstacles to integration were the absence of housing, the absence of regular income and/or the lack of employment. The delegation stressed the efforts made by Ukraine to improve the allocation of social benefits to internally displaced persons, underlining that there was currently no mechanism available to provide such benefits in territories outside the control of the Government.

10. The issue of gender-based violence was being addressed through awareness-raising and information campaigns, the provision of assistance to the victims and the prosecution of offenders. Since October 2016, 26 mobile teams had provided social and psychological assistance to victims. The delegation underlined the findings of the human rights monitoring mission in Ukraine on widespread conflict-related sexual violence against civilians in areas controlled by armed groups in Donbas. Work towards the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention) was ongoing.

11. In 2016, the Constitution had been amended to strengthen the independence of the judiciary, in particular through the elimination of political influence in the process of establishing courts and appointing judges. Twenty-seven regional free legal aid centres providing assistance in criminal cases, and 528 local centres providing secondary legal aid in administrative and civil cases, had been established in 2013 and 2015, respectively. Since 2015, the list of people entitled to free legal aid had been expanded to include internally displaced persons, victims of domestic violence, veterans and asylum seekers.

12. Article 124 of the Constitution had been amended to allow for the ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court within three years. Revision of domestic criminal law with a view to its harmonization with the Statute was under way. In April 2014, following declarations made by the parliament under article 12 (3) of the Statute, the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court had opened a preliminary investigation into the situation in Ukraine.

13. With regard to corruption, the delegation reaffirmed the commitment of Ukraine to establishing an anti-corruption court as a separate independent body.

14. Regarding the requirement for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to release financial declarations, the Government was working on establishing a system that would not endanger their activities and independence.

15. The penitentiary system in the Ukraine had been demilitarized. As a consequence of reforms the prison population had significantly decreased, which had led to the improvement of conditions in detention facilities. However, overcrowding and poor conditions of detention remained a problem in pretrial detention facilities. Articles 212 and 213 of the Criminal Procedure Code provided for due process safeguards for detainees, and an information technology system for custody records was currently being tested.

16. Ukraine remained committed to preventing torture and ill-treatment and prosecuting the perpetrators. In 2012, a national preventive mechanism had been established as part of the office of the ombudsperson. Furthermore, an independent State bureau of investigations had recently been set up to investigate crimes committed by high-ranking officials, judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officers. The Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment had conducted two visits to the country in 2016, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment had conducted four visits since 2012, and the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment would undertake a visit soon.

17. In 2014, anti-discrimination legislation in Ukraine had been updated to cover direct and indirect discrimination and aiding and abetting discrimination, to grant more powers to the ombudsperson in that area, to prohibit discrimination by private persons and companies and to introduce a mandatory anti-discrimination review of draft laws. In 2015, a national focal point for hate crimes had been established within the national police, and the

Government had continued to promote awareness-raising campaigns and encourage the reporting of hate crimes.

18. Draft law No. 1729 prohibiting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender "propaganda" had been withdrawn from the parliament, and the Labour Code had been amended in 2015 to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in employment and occupation. In 2016, the Ministry of Health had abolished Order No. 60, which had required extensive psychiatric observation of transgender people before they underwent gender reassignment surgery. In 2016 and 2017, the Equality March had taken place peacefully in Kyiv under the protection of the national police.

19. The delegation stressed that Ukraine would continue to engage in inclusive dialogue with society to ensure that no group, including Roma, was marginalized or discriminated against. The national strategy on Roma integration had been implemented, extra efforts had been made to improve the documentation of the Roma population, and school attendance of Roma children had increased significantly.

20. Recent developments in gender equality included the approval of the national action plan to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security; the establishment of a commissioner for gender equality, ensuring coordination within the Government on gender-related policies; the adoption of the Law on ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men; the adoption of the Law on political parties, giving incentives to parties reaching a one-third gender quota in their party list; and the Law on local elections, providing for a gender quota of 30 per cent. The Ministry of Defence had increased, in 2016, the number of combat positions open to women, and the Ministry of Health had announced, in 2017, its intention to abolish Regulation No. 256, which listed 450 professions prohibited for women. Finally, gender-responsive budgeting had been integrated for the first time in the strategy for the management of public finances for the period 2017–2021.

21. In 2016, the Constitutional Court had ruled unconstitutional the legal provisions requiring prior approval for peaceful assemblies. In 2016, the European Commission for Democracy through Law (the Venice Commission) and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe experts had assessed positively the two draft laws regulating the right to peaceful assembly currently registered with the parliament.

22. In 2015, the Law on strengthening the guarantees of legitimate professional activity of journalists had established as a criminal offence obstructing journalists' activities. The council for the protection of the professional activities of journalists and freedom of expression had carried out monitoring in that regard since 2016. The delegation underlined that in Crimea, freedom of the media had been significantly suppressed, including through the placement of journalists on the list of "terrorists and extremists", and the raiding of the house of a journalist and his conviction on charges of making calls for separatism.

23. The delegation reiterated the State's commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In 2016 the national baseline report had been approved, adapting 17 Sustainable Development Goals to the national development context.

II. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

24. During the interactive dialogue, 70 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

25. Estonia noted with appreciation the State's efforts in tackling the very difficult problems caused by the current situation in eastern Ukraine and in Crimea. It welcomed the Law on the rights and freedoms of internally displaced persons, and urged Ukraine to continue to investigate the serious violations and abuses perpetrated during the Maidan protests and the violence in Odessa.

26. Finland commended Ukraine for the reform work it had started. Following the Maidan protests, on eradicating corruption and reforming the judiciary, however, that development needed to be strengthened. Finland encouraged Ukraine to revise the Labour

Code to remove articles infringing on women's rights and to repeal the list of prohibited occupations and sectors to facilitate women's access to the labour market.

27. France praised the important reforms adopted in the areas of justice and the fight against corruption. It remained concerned by the draft bill exhorting, in an intrusive and unjustified manner, NGOs and civil society organizations to disclose a great amount of information.

28. Georgia welcomed the State's ratification of a number of international instruments, and encouraged Ukraine to accelerate the process of ratification of the Istanbul Convention. It further welcomed the comprehensive judicial reform undertaken and the measures aimed at combating discrimination. Georgia raised concerns over the human rights situation in the temporarily occupied territories.

29. Germany commended the implementation of the recommendations from the previous review, especially those on the situation of juvenile prisoners. It remained concerned about some human rights issues.

30. Ghana welcomed, inter alia, the justice sector reform strategy for the period 2015–2020, the constitutional amendment and the national action plan for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the establishment of the office of the commissioner for gender equality.

31. Greece welcomed, inter alia, the intense reforms of and the constitutional amendments regarding the judiciary. It deplored the lack of access of the human rights monitoring mission to the entire territory of Ukraine. Greece remained concerned by the humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine and Crimea and by the living conditions of the indigenous population of Ukrainians of Greek origin.

32. Guatemala noted with concern the State's notification to the Secretary-General of the suspension of the application of a number of international instruments, the reported increase in cases of racially motivated incidents and hate crimes and the lack of adequate and effective investigations into those crimes.

33. Honduras welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the second review. It raised concerns about, inter alia, discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, the increase in racially motivated incidents and hate crimes and summary executions to which the population trapped in the armed conflicts was exposed.

34. Hungary took note of the positive steps taken by Ukraine to promote and protect human rights, including the constitutional amendments regarding an independent judiciary. It raised concern about article 7 of the Law on education, and called on Ukraine not to restrict the substance of the fundamental right of minorities to receive education in their mother tongue.

35. India welcomed, inter alia, the adoption of constitutional amendments and the national action plan for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It noted with concern the absence of a law covering the specific crime of domestic violence, and the discrimination faced by Roma people who were not fully integrated.

36. Indonesia welcomed the ratification of several international instruments, and the measures taken to prevent human trafficking, including the State social programme on combating trafficking in human beings for the period 2016–2020.

37. Iraq welcomed the constitutional amendments aimed at improving the human rights situation. It noted with satisfaction the re-accreditation of the ombudsperson's office with "A status", as well as the ratification of several human rights instruments and the adoption of the strategy to reform the justice system.

38. Ireland commended the State's continued cooperation with international human rights mechanisms, and acknowledged the progress made to advance human rights against a difficult backdrop. Ireland was particularly concerned about conflict-related sexual violence against men and women, as documented by OHCHR.

39. Italy welcomed the approval of the national strategy for human rights and the related action plan, the constitutional amendments introduced to strengthen judicial independence and the intention of the Ministry of Health to abolish regulation No. 256, which listed 450 professions prohibited for women.

40. Latvia commended the level of cooperation between the Government and the human rights monitoring mission in Ukraine. It welcomed the adoption of the national human rights strategy and action plan, and reiterated its concerns regarding the human rights situation in eastern Ukraine and Crimea.

41. Lithuania stated that violations of human rights and international humanitarian law had become routine in Crimea and in Donbas.

42. Madagascar highlighted that, despite the difficulties faced by Ukraine in recent years, the Government had taken several steps to improve the human rights situation by ratifying several international instruments and undertaking constitutional and legislative measures on gender equality and against discrimination.

43. Malaysia commended Ukraine for its various efforts to promote and protect human rights, in particular the State social programme for combating trafficking in human beings and the good partnership forged between the Government and civil society in implementing measures to combat human trafficking.

44. Maldives welcomed the recent constitutional amendments enabling a comprehensive judicial reform process, and the national strategy for human rights for the period 2015–2020.

45. Mexico welcomed the creation of the office of the commissioner for gender equality, and the amendment to the Labour Code explicitly prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the workplace.

46. Mongolia welcomed the amendments to the Constitution and other legislative and institutional changes. It encouraged Ukraine to provide the coordinating council on juvenile justice and the juvenile probation centres with adequate human and financial resources. Mongolia expressed concern about the prevalence of domestic and sexual violence in the country.

47. Montenegro welcomed the constitutional amendments that had created the legal conditions for comprehensive judiciary reform. It encouraged Ukraine to improve its efforts to conduct effective investigations of all acts of racially based discrimination and hate crimes, and to improve its juvenile justice system.

48. Namibia applauded the constitutional amendments that had provided a basis for a comprehensive judicial review process and had created the legal conditions for an independent judiciary, and noted the adoption of the strategy for poverty reduction for the period 2016–2020.

49. The Netherlands commended the State's positive response to the recommendations it had received in previous reviews, and acknowledged its sustained efforts to implement reforms in a number of areas, including the judiciary. It called upon Ukraine to accelerate the pace of reform.

50. The delegation of Ukraine indicated that the Law on education guaranteed the right of national minorities to learn and study in their mother tongue in preschool and primary school, while also studying Ukrainian as a subject, and that bilingual education was available at the secondary level. It engaged in bilateral cooperation with neighbouring countries on the implementation modalities of the Law.

51. The implementation of the national immunization programme was a priority for Ukraine, which was providing vaccines through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). A related action plan for the period 2017–2020 had been approved, containing an appeal to international organizations to provide Ukraine with a sufficient number of doses of inactivated poliovirus vaccine. Immunization against measles was also taking place.

52. A strategy for the protection and integration of the Roma national minority into Ukrainian society, for the period 2013–2020, and a related action plan were being implemented. In 2015, an interministerial working group had been created, with the participation of five Roma NGOs. Progress had been made regarding the provision of identification documents for Roma people and the number of Roma pupils attending secondary school. A day — 2 August — had been designated for the commemoration of the Roma holocaust, and a monument had been erected in Kyiv at the site of a massacre of Roma people that had occurred during World War II.

53. Over the past two years, the number of identified victims of human trafficking receiving assistance had increased by 1.5 times. A law had been adopted to amend the definition of human trafficking in accordance with the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. All victims had the right to protection during criminal proceedings and to social assistance. In 2017, there had been a threefold increase in one-time financial assistance for victims.

54. In response to a question on gender inequality in political and economic areas, Ukraine stated that a gender component had been included in its strategic documents, including a strategy to fight poverty and the relevant plan of action. To reduce the gender pay gap, measures had been taken to increase remuneration in the public sector, where women were predominantly engaged.

55. In response to several questions, Ukraine stated that it had developed a new law on combating domestic violence on the basis of best practices and with the involvement of health-care and education experts. Furthermore, the Government had established shelters for victims of domestic violence.

56. Nicaragua welcomed the legislative policies and measures taken to promote gender equality, prevent and combat discrimination, prevent torture and ill-treatment and improve the situation of persons with disabilities, as well as the ratification of various international instruments.

57. Norway commended Ukraine for the general progress made in legislation promoting human rights. It expressed deep concern about the violations of human rights and humanitarian law in eastern Ukraine and the continued support from the Russian Federation to the separatists. It stressed that a diverse civil society was vital for the development of a healthy democracy.

58. Poland referred to grave violations of human rights and humanitarian law in Crimea and eastern Ukraine perpetrated since the previous review. It welcomed the efforts made by Ukraine to protect those who were most vulnerable, including internally displaced persons and Crimean Tatars.

59. Portugal welcomed the re-accreditation of the ombudsperson's office with "A status", in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), and the adoption of the constitutional amendments relating to membership in the International Criminal Court.

60. The Republic of Korea commended Ukraine for the assistance provided to internally displaced persons and the efforts made in strengthening the independence of the judiciary and improving the criminal justice system since 2012.

61. The Republic of Moldova stated that Ukraine had shown resilience and resolve in the face of unimaginable challenges since 2012. It remained concerned by the conflict-related human rights violations, including cases of arbitrary detention, allegations of torture, sexual violence and limitations on freedom of movement and freedom of expression.

62. Romania commended the efforts made by Ukraine to ensure safeguards for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights and freedoms of citizens in Crimea and eastern Ukraine. It acknowledged the cooperation of the Government with international human rights mechanisms.

63. The Russian Federation stated that it was deeply concerned at the worsening of the human rights situation in Ukraine, where impunity was flourishing for law enforcement authorities involved in human rights violations. It said that the space for the free expression of views had shrunk catastrophically, and raised concern at the absence of an independent judiciary.

64. Saudi Arabia praised Ukraine for the steps taken to promote and protect human rights. It commended the appointment of the commissioner for the rights of persons with disabilities, and the establishment of the national anti-corruption bureau and the specialized anti-corruption prosecutor's office.

65. Senegal noted with satisfaction the constitutional amendments allowing the ratification of the Rome Statute. It praised the reform of the national health system and the adoption of the 2012 anti-discrimination law.

66. Sierra Leone noted that, despite the complex challenges faced by Ukraine due to the conflict in the east, the Government had taken various progressive measures. It encouraged the Government to develop strategies to investigate and prosecute cases of sexual violence more effectively.

67. Slovakia commended the efforts made by Ukraine to improve the legislative framework for human rights and welcomed, inter alia, the constitutional amendments adopted, the national human rights strategy and the national plan of action for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

68. Slovenia welcomed steps taken by Ukraine regarding its reform agenda. It noted that, despite the Government's strengthened efforts, the issue of corruption had yet to be properly addressed. It expressed concern that legislation on combating sexual and domestic violence and on equal rights for women and men had not been fully implemented.

69. Spain noted with satisfaction the signing of the Istanbul Convention. It welcomed, inter alia, the importance given by Ukraine to the women, peace and security agenda, and the adoption in 2016 of the first national plan in that connection.

70. Sweden expressed concern regarding domestic violence and continued sexual violence in the Government-controlled parts of eastern Ukraine, as well as widespread incidents of hate crime and related impunity. It welcomed steps taken to strengthen the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

71. Switzerland commended Ukraine for its collaboration with OHCHR and underlined the importance of the implementation of the recommendations it had received, including those relating to Crimea and other territories not under the Government's control.

72. The Syrian Arab Republic expressed deep concern at human rights violations carried out by Ukrainian armed forces, including the indiscriminate shelling of residential areas, hospitals, schools and other civilian installations, extrajudicial killings, disappearances, and torture in government detention facilities and in areas controlled by loyal militia.

73. Thailand welcomed, inter alia, the strengthening of the ombudsperson's office in line with the Paris Principles, the justice sector reform, the appointment of the commissioner for the rights of persons with disabilities and the efforts made towards the empowerment of women, while noting that violence against women was prevalent.

74. Turkey welcomed the ratification of, inter alia, the Istanbul Convention, and efforts to implement comprehensive judicial reform and to combat corruption. It highlighted the importance of establishing a legal status for Crimean Tatars.

75. The United Kingdom welcomed the significant progress made by Ukraine on human rights, and expressed concern about the human rights situation in eastern Ukraine and Crimea.

76. The United States commended reform efforts made by Ukraine since 2014, and raised concerns about the human rights situation in Crimea and occupied parts of Donbas; it also raised concerns about the threats posed by Russian influence campaigns, but also about the human rights implications of certain steps taken by Ukraine to counter them.

77. Uruguay encouraged Ukraine to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. It welcomed steps taken against discrimination, including the expansion of the mandate of the ombudsperson, and the modification of the Labour Code to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

78. The delegation of Ukraine indicated that an investigation by the Prosecutor General into the crimes committed during the protests that had taken place between November 2013 and February 2014 had led to 50 indictments of 116 people and the sentencing of 12 people. To ensure transparent investigations, the Government had launched a register of criminal proceedings for crimes committed during the revolution of dignity. The investigation of the events in Odessa was in the hands of the Prosecutor General's Office, with a focus on misconduct by the police. In that regard, three people had been indicted and four were being sought.

79. In 2017, the Prosecutor General's Office had submitted 22 indictments to courts against 32 law enforcement officers for use of torture.

80. Regarding investigations of crimes committed in the context of antiterrorist operations, the chief military prosecution had revealed numerous violations of article 75 (2) of the Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts, and had identified more than 3,000 illegally detained people who had been subjected to torture. With regard to investigations of sex-related crimes perpetrated by law enforcement officers, the delegation referred to the investigation of the Tornado battalion case, which had led to the sentencing of three people for torture and sexual crimes.

81. Regarding the reform of the Prosecutor General's Office, the inspectorate general had been established, which had led to the investigation of 60 prosecutors on corruption grounds, and a qualification and disciplinary commission, in charge of employment and dismissal in the prosecutors' offices, had been introduced. A road map for the reform of the Prosecutor General's Office, drafted with the Council of Europe and the European Union, had been signed.

82. Ukrainian authorities had provided training on international humanitarian law for the leadership of the national armed forces, and were conducting a thorough campaign to prevent gender and sexual violence by the armed forces. More than 4,000 preventive workshops had been organized.

83. With regard to preventing torture by and misconduct of police, more than 60 police stations and 150 temporary detention facilities had been equipped with closed circuit televisions. The national police had created an information system to document complaints and physical injuries of detainees. A human rights department had been established within the national police, and prevention of torture and misconduct had been included in training courses for the police.

84. With regard to the recommendations made by the Russian Federation, Ukraine believed that those were actually relevant to the parts of Ukraine occupied and annexed by the Russian Federation. It was in Crimea where impunity and ethnic and religious discrimination were flourishing, and where the right to be educated in one's native language was being blatantly violated. The delegation stressed that the Russian Federation supported separatist groups in Donbas, and that the international team that had investigated the crash of flight MH17 had come to the conclusion that the aircraft had been shot down by a Buk missile system brought from the Russian Federation. The delegation urged the Russian Federation to respect international humanitarian and human rights law in the territories under its control.

85. Regarding a question on demining and rehabilitation in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, the delegation stated that the armed forces had concluded the rehabilitation of infrastructure in 9 of 12 priority areas, and that the 3 remaining areas required yet another demining operation owing to constant ceasefire violations.

86. Referring to comments made by the Russian Federation and the Syrian Arab Republic, the delegation underscored that illegal armed groups in Donbas continued to

violate the ceasefire agreement, including through the use of heavy artillery. As of 2017, more than 14,000 cases of ceasefire violation had been recorded.

87. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expressed concern regarding shortcomings in the area of health, discrimination against national minorities, the increase in hate speech, ill-treatment by the police and the level of women's unemployment.

88. Afghanistan commended Ukraine for amending the Law on principles of preventing and combating discrimination, and for ratifying a series of international instruments, in particular several International Labour Organization conventions.

89. Algeria welcomed measures to extend the mandate of the ombudsperson to cases of discrimination, to implement a national action plan on the rights of persons with disabilities and to establish a national agency for the prevention of corruption.

90. Andorra welcomed the efforts made by Ukraine to promote and protect women's rights, including the establishment of mobile teams to provide assistance to victims of domestic violence and the police's POLINA pilot project to deploy mobile response groups against domestic violence in three cities.

91. Angola commended Ukraine on its implementation of the recommendations of the previous review and for its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights.

92. Argentina welcomed the ratification by Ukraine of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and efforts to combat discrimination.

93. Australia, reiterating its commitment to the territorial integrity of Ukraine, expressed concern at the disproportionate effect of the conflict on civilians, at legislative and institutional limitations with respect to countering gender-based violence and advancing gender equality, at reports of continued judicial corruption and failure to fully investigate human rights violations, and at reported increases in trafficking in persons.

94. Austria welcomed the judicial sector reform and the creation of an enabling environment for media professionals. It raised concerns about, inter alia, recurring reports of torture and ill-treatment and other human rights violations by law enforcement officials and by parties in the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

95. Azerbaijan welcomed the ratification by Ukraine of a number of international instruments, the adoption of the justice sector reform strategy for the period 2015–2020, and the commitment to the 2030 Agenda.

96. Belgium welcomed the important efforts made by Ukraine in the field of human rights. It called on all parties to respect human rights in the eastern territories and in Crimea, and to grant full access to the human rights monitoring mission in Ukraine. Belgium expressed concern at the extent of violence against women.

97. Bosnia and Herzegovina expressed concern at the prevalence of violence against women, in particular domestic and sexual violence. It welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse.

98. Brazil commended the adoption of the Law on principles of preventing and combating discrimination, the national strategy for human rights, the establishment of the national preventive mechanism against torture, and the ongoing process to establish the State bureau of investigation.

99. Bulgaria commended the progress achieved by Ukraine despite the adverse effects of the armed conflict. It remained concerned at the high number of casualties, particularly among the civil population, and at the humanitarian situation of people living along the conflict line. It welcomed the submission of the Law on education to the Venice Commission for its expert opinion.

100. Canada welcomed the concrete steps taken by Ukraine improve its adherence to international human rights standards, including the adoption of the national human rights strategy and the efforts made towards gender equality.

101. Chile welcomed the establishment of a commissioner for the rights of people with disabilities and the justice sector reform strategy, but expressed concern at the prevalence of discrimination and hate speech against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

102. China commended the efforts made by Ukraine to promote and protect human rights, including by combating racial discrimination, promoting gender equality, protecting the rights of vulnerable groups, such as women, children and persons with disabilities, and combating human trafficking. China noted that the State's social security system could be further improved, and stated that corruption still existed in the judicial system.

103. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed a number of positive measures in the field of human rights, including the renewal of the "A status" of the office of the ombudsperson, and the adoption of the national human rights action plan.

104. Croatia welcomed the creation of the Ministry for Temporarily Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons and the establishment of the commissioner for gender equality. It expressed concern at remaining stereotypes with respect to the roles of women in society and the family and at violence against women.

105. Czechia thanked the delegation for the comments made on some of its advance questions.

106. Denmark noted the positive steps taken by Ukraine to protect and promote human rights. It expressed concern at the prevalence of violence against women and at the apparent shrinking of civil society space, including as a result of threats and violent attacks and inhibitive bureaucratic requirements and restrictions.

107. Ecuador welcomed the efforts made by Ukraine to implement the recommendations of the second review, in particular the modification of the Law on education to create better access to education for persons with special needs.

108. Egypt stated that it had followed the positive developments in Ukraine, including the constitutional amendments, the launching of the justice sector reform, the establishment of the national preventive mechanism against torture and the creation of an ombudsperson for gender equality.

109. Haiti welcomed the efforts made by Ukraine to improve its human rights record, despite the many challenges, noting in particular the strengthening of the national anti-corruption bureau and the establishment of the specialized anti-corruption prosecutor's office.

110. The delegation of Ukraine indicated that the high council of justice, a new constitutional body, had the authority over personnel issues in the judiciary, including disciplinary and liability issues. A procedure assessing the qualification of judges had started recently.

111. Ukraine strongly supported the establishment of an anti-corruption court, and a working group had been set up to draft a bill in that regard. In July 2017, the President had submitted to the parliament a draft law on the abolition of e-declarations by NGOs.

112. In response to questions regarding the declaration of derogation from provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the delegation said that the Government had notified the Secretary-General that it could not fully guarantee the application and implementation of all human rights in Crimea and the occupied parts of Donbas, or in the parts of Donbas under its control. An interministerial commission had been established to review the scope, duration and substance of the derogation.

113. In response to two questions, the delegation stressed that poverty eradication was one of the strategic priorities, and that unemployment had been on the decline, particularly among young people.

114. Another priority was to ensure child protection through the drafting of the national action plan on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Laws and regulations had been adopted to provide special status for children affected by armed conflict. Ukraine also monitored the situation of internally displaced persons, creating a dedicated comprehensive social protection programme and a draft strategy on their integration, and introducing long-term solutions for internal displacement.

115. To conclude, the delegation thanked all the delegations that participated constructively in the interactive dialogue.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

116. **The following recommendations will be examined by Ukraine, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council:**

116.1 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Montenegro) (Portugal);**

116.2 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Afghanistan) (Honduras) (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

116.3 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Senegal);**

116.4 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families at the earliest convenience (Ghana);**

116.5 **Ratify and accede to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Sierra Leone);**

116.6 **Ratify promptly the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Guatemala);**

116.7 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia);**

116.8 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Estonia);**

116.9 **Expedite the ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Latvia);**

116.10 **Swiftly ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Austria);**

116.11 **Consider ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Lithuania);**

116.12 **Accede and adapt its national legislation to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Guatemala);**

116.13 **Accede and adapt its national legislation to the Arms Trade Treaty and sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Guatemala);**

116.14 **Ratify and fully implement the International Labour Organization Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

116.15 **Ratify the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) (Senegal);**

116.16 **Ratify the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labour Organization (Guatemala);**

116.17 **Take further necessary measures and accede to The Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption, as previously recommended (Ireland);**

116.18 **Ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions (Chile);**

116.19 **Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention) (Bosnia and Herzegovina) (Chile) (Estonia) (Montenegro) (Norway) (Slovenia) (Spain) (Turkey);**

116.20 **Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence without further delay (Denmark);**

116.21 **Ratify as soon as possible the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention) (Andorra);**

116.22 **Urgently ratify and implement the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Austria);**

116.23 **Expedite the ratification of the Istanbul Convention and criminalize domestic violence in order to provide more comprehensive coverage for combating violence against women and girls (Sierra Leone);**

116.24 **Consider ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention) (Lithuania);**

116.25 **Ratify the European Convention on the Compensation of Victims of Violent Crimes (Chile) (Slovenia);**

116.26 **Establish a mechanism for the periodic and independent review of the necessity and the proportionality of measures taken in derogation from Ukraine's obligations under human rights conventions of the United Nations and the Council of Europe (Belgium);**

116.27 **Intensify cooperation with the international community in order to ensure access of international human rights and humanitarian actors and monitoring mechanisms to the whole territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders with the aim to monitor, report on and address the human rights situation (Georgia);**

116.28 **Increase the resources allocated to the new Ministry for Temporarily Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons (Greece);**

116.29 **Increase the human and financial resources of the Ministry for Temporarily Occupied Territories and International Displaced Persons in order to fulfil its mandate fully (Croatia);**

116.30 **Review the procedure for the selection of the ombudsman and, more broadly, the selection, training and status of judges, taking into account the recommendations of the Venice Commission (France);**

116.31 **Secure sufficient resources for the ombudsperson's office so that it can fully carry out its functions (Slovakia);**

116.32 **Allocate the necessary human, technical and financial resources for the strengthening of the office of the ombudsman (Honduras);**

116.33 **Ensure effective coordination between the activities of the expert council of ethnic policy and the action plan for the implementation of the**

national strategy for human rights with a view to ensuring non-discrimination (Romania);

116.34 **Fully implement its 2015 national human rights strategy, including with respect to protecting the rights of internally displaced persons; ending discrimination based on gender and sexual orientation through the ratification of the Istanbul Convention; and addressing hate crimes through a strengthened criminal justice framework (Canada);**

116.35 **Carry out awareness programmes and sensitivity training on violence and discrimination for law enforcement, judicial and other authorities to prevent discrimination in society based on sexual orientation or gender (Finland);**

116.36 **Continue maintaining its strong will to take necessary steps where further improvement and harmonization with international standards is needed (Turkey);**

116.37 **Continue the implementation of its legislative and institutional framework to protect and advance human rights, to ensure practical improvements on the ground (Australia);**

116.38 **Strengthen measures aimed at fighting discrimination (Argentina);**

116.39 **Continue strengthening the legislative framework for the prevention and combating of racial discrimination and prejudiced-based practices (Uruguay);**

116.40 **Amend the legal definition of discrimination so that it includes a comprehensive list of banned reasons for discrimination (Czechia);**

116.41 **Continue efforts to fight discrimination in all spheres of life, also taking measures against all expressions and manifestations of prejudices, such as hate speech, racism and xenophobia (Nicaragua);**

116.42 **Adopt immediately all measures aimed at preventing discrimination and prosecution on ethnic or religious grounds (Russian Federation);**

116.43 **Create effective institutional mechanisms to combat all forms of racial discrimination, xenophobia, racism and incitement to hatred (Senegal);**

116.44 **Conduct public campaigns to promote cultural diversity and tolerance towards minorities and victims of hate crimes (Sierra Leone);**

116.45 **Conduct public campaigns to promote cultural diversity and tolerance and establish a governmental monitoring mechanism for such crimes (Côte d'Ivoire);**

116.46 **Further ensure the promotion and protection of cultural diversity and tolerance within society through effective measures, including public campaigns (Afghanistan);**

116.47 **Strongly condemn hate speech, adequately investigate racist hate speech and racially motivated violence and prosecute the perpetrators (Guatemala);**

116.48 **Enforce the strictest standards on banning political declarations and programmes encouraging racism, xenophobia and hate speech or inciting to hatred or intolerance, including of an ethnic or religious nature (Côte d'Ivoire);**

116.49 **Continue its efforts to address discrimination based on race, national identity or religious belief and to promote cultural diversity and tolerance, including through the implementation of article 161 of the Criminal Code (Indonesia);**

116.50 **Take necessary measures to combat xenophobia, racism and discrimination in public speech (Iraq);**

116.51 **Take effective measures to combat hate speech and acts of hate relating to ethnic origin or sexual orientation (Belgium);**

116.52 **Continue to work on effective measures to ensure legal and judicial advances in the fight against hate crime, including hate crime related to racial discrimination or sexual orientation and gender identity (Brazil);**

116.53 **Prohibit political statements and platforms that promote racism, xenophobia, hate speech, or speech aimed at inciting hatred or intolerance towards ethnic, religious or any other minorities (Ecuador);**

116.54 **Adopt a specific policy to prevent and combat the increase in racist hate speech and crimes motivated by racial prejudice, the summary, extrajudicial or arbitrary executions to which the population in the midst of the armed conflicts is exposed, and sexual offences in the country (Honduras);**

116.55 **Put an end to the glorification of Nazi criminals and other complicit persons, including Stepan Bandera and Roman Shukhevych (Russian Federation);**

116.56 **Ensure the observance of the principles of international humanitarian law by all parties in conflict (Spain);**

116.57 **Abstain from any practice that could endanger the lives of civilians (Norway);**

116.58 **Put an end to violations and atrocities committed by governmental and loyalist forces in the context of the internal conflict in eastern Ukraine (Syrian Arab Republic);**

116.59 **Take serious measures to resolve the conflict in a peaceful manner by complying with the Government's obligations under the Minsk package of measures and by initiating their implementation (Syrian Arab Republic);**

116.60 **Simplify access to public administrative services for Crimean residents and enable Ukrainian citizens to move smoothly between Crimea and the rest of Ukraine, recognizing General Assembly resolutions 68/262 and 71/205 and Ukraine's sovereignty over Crimea (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

116.61 **Support efforts to prevent human rights abuses in Crimea and Donbas by facilitating access for monitors, human rights defenders, journalists, and lawyers, and investigate thoroughly any credible allegations of abuses by Ukrainian forces, and use all appropriate methods to promote accountability for abuses (United States of America);**

116.62 **Follow the recommendations made by OHCHR regarding the human rights situation in the conflict-affected areas of eastern Ukraine, particularly with respect to due process, the treatment of prisoners and detainees, and gender-based and sexual violence (Canada);**

116.63 **Use all existing instruments and mechanisms to protect the human rights and freedoms of Ukrainian citizens living on the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine while taking political and diplomatic steps aimed at restoring Ukraine's territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders (Georgia);**

116.64 **End immediately the economic and military blockade of Donbas, stop shelling its territory, and fully implement social and human rights obligations towards the region's inhabitants (Russian Federation);**

116.65 **Fully integrate provisions on the criminalization of enforced disappearance into its national legislation (Slovakia);**

116.66 **Take measures to incorporate into its national legislation the crime of enforced disappearance (Argentina);**

116.67 **Take steps to investigate all allegations of enforced disappearance and to prevent and prosecute cases of torture and illegal detention (Italy);**

116.68 **Include a definition of torture in the Criminal Code in full compliance with article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment in an impartial, thorough, transparent, efficient and effective manner so as to bring perpetrators to justice and fight impunity (Republic of Moldova);**

116.69 **Grant the national preventive mechanism the legal authority and the practical means, including financial, to access all places where the mechanism suspects that persons are deprived or may be deprived of liberty, in accordance with article 4 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Switzerland);**

116.70 **Increase resources to protect the rights and living conditions of people in detention and prisoners (Republic of Korea);**

116.71 **Continue efforts to improve the situation of prisoners, in particular in pre-trial detention, by, inter alia, increasing the minimum space attributed to each prisoner, allocating necessary financial means, increasing custodial staff and ensuring necessary medical treatment (Germany);**

116.72 **Continue its efforts in combating human trafficking, including through training for law enforcement officials and cooperation with countries of transit and destination (Indonesia);**

116.73 **Intensify efforts to combat human trafficking and provide adequate resources to increase the quality of services provided for victims of trafficking (Latvia);**

116.74 **Strengthen existing law and practice to counter trafficking in human beings for sexual and labour exploitation, particularly of young women, focusing also on the situation in conflict-affected areas where the risk of being exposed to sexual violence or trafficking is higher (Poland);**

116.75 **Continue efforts to prevent human trafficking and protect the rights of victims, and provide them with necessary assistance (Egypt);**

116.76 **Consider allocating adequate funding to anti-trafficking initiatives in order to ensure the successful implementation of the national action plan for the period 2016-2020 (Maldives);**

116.77 **Stop illegal practices targeting memorials and sacred religious places of national and religious minorities (Syrian Arab Republic);**

116.78 **Uphold and respect the rights of all religious communities to their institutional autonomy, their property and their procedures at all times (Greece);**

116.79 **Ensure that no unnecessary or arbitrary legal or administrative restrictions on the legitimate work of civil society are in effect (Denmark);**

116.80 **Guarantee the right to freedom of opinion and expression in all its territory, as well as active participation of society and media in public affairs (Mexico);**

116.81 **Review the repressive governmental policy designed to suppress the functioning of independent media, journalists and bloggers (Russian Federation);**

116.82 **Ensure a greater involvement of public powers to guarantee the free exercise of freedom of expression and of the media, as these freedoms contribute to accountability in cases of human rights violations (Spain);**

116.83 Coordinate with international experts to conduct a review of recent legislation and decrees concerning the media and civil society, to determine whether these measures are consistent with Ukraine's international obligations (United States of America);

116.84 Adopt legislation that is conducive to the development and safeguarding of today's strong and vibrant NGO community in Ukraine (Norway);

116.85 Further strengthen the protection of journalists, human rights defenders and individuals to ensure their rights to freedom of opinion and expression. It is crucial that crimes against media professionals do not go unpunished (Netherlands);

116.86 Further strengthen the legislative environment for journalists and media outlets, take additional measures for their safety, and tackle impunity for attacks on journalists (Greece);

116.87 Ensure respect for freedom of expression, in particular with regard to journalists, associations and non-governmental organizations defending fundamental rights, including the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (France);

116.88 Strengthen the protection of journalists and investigate those responsible for spreading personal data of journalists and inciting attacks against them. Investigate and prosecute as a matter of priority killings of journalists, such as that of Pavel Sheremet (Czechia);

116.89 Continue to improve the respect of the freedom of expression and the protection of journalists, within the framework of the media legislation, which is hampering freedom of expression through the inclusion of broadcasting thresholds in languages belonging to national minorities (Romania);

116.90 Ensure the safety of journalists and civil society activists by protecting them against unlawful interference and threats (Republic of Korea);

116.91 Guarantee the safety of human rights defenders and journalists and ensure they can freely exercise their activities (Italy);

116.92 Ensure that legislation on the declaration of assets by non-governmental organizations does not weaken civil society and does not unnecessarily compel the disclosure of intrusive information (France);

116.93 Ensure free functioning of political parties, including those in the opposition (Russian Federation);

116.94 Ensure that judges, lawyers and other justice professionals are fully protected from threats, intimidation and other external pressures that seek to challenge and threaten their independence and impartiality (Netherlands);

116.95 Take urgent measures to re-establish the independence of the judiciary (Russian Federation);

116.96 Ensure that judges of the Supreme Court are not subjected to any form of political influence in their decision-making and that their appointment is transparent (Slovenia);

116.97 Increase its efforts to ensure fair and effective judicial processes, particularly with regard to human rights abuses (Australia);

116.98 Continue its efforts to improve access to justice for all Ukrainians (Azerbaijan);

116.99 Guarantee access to justice, due process and fair reparation mechanisms without any discrimination, in compliance with international human rights law (Ecuador);

116.100 Take steps to end impunity for perpetrators of human rights violations (Hungary);

116.101 Finalize the establishment of the State bureau of investigations and accord it the resources and independence needed to investigate crimes committed by public officials, judges and law enforcement officers, thereby addressing impunity (Namibia);

116.102 Implement the recommendations contained in the latest report by the human rights monitoring mission in Ukraine of September 2017, notably to develop a national mechanism to make available to civilian victims of the conflict adequate, effective, prompt and appropriate remedies, including reparation (Austria);

116.103 Carry out an immediate and independent investigation into the events in Odessa in May 2014 and bring those responsible to justice (Russian Federation);

116.104 Ensure progress in the investigations into the murders committed during the Maidan revolution in Odessa in May 2014, and into the murder of journalist Pavel Sheremet on 20 July 2016 (France);

116.105 Conduct thorough, independent and impartial investigations into all cases of the use of torture and arbitrary detention by law enforcement agencies (Russian Federation);

116.106 Investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment, including against persons detained for reasons linked to the conflict, in accordance with its international obligations (Switzerland);

116.107 Further improve the investigation of allegations of torture and ill-treatment, as well as of disproportionate use of force by security personnel, and ensure the prosecution of perpetrators (Brazil);

116.108 Continue to seek effective ways, through international mechanisms, to hold to account those responsible for violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in those parts of Ukraine which are de facto controlled by the Russian Federation (Lithuania);

116.109 Ensure that human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, illegal detentions, torture and gender-based violence, committed by all sides in the Russian-instigated conflict in eastern Ukraine are recorded, investigated and the perpetrators brought to justice (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

116.110 Ensure that the justice sector reform strategy for 2015–2020 is further implemented to improve access to justice, strengthen independence and eliminate corruption (Austria);

116.111 Combat corruption in the judicial system and promote justice (China);

116.112 Take the necessary measures to combat corruption, address its causes and eradicate its roots (Iraq);

116.113 Address the root causes of corruption as a matter of priority (Hungary);

116.114 Create a special anti-corruption court and ensure its proper functioning (Estonia);

116.115 Establish a separate independent anti-corruption court to further strengthen the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law (Finland);

116.116 Step up efforts to combat corruption and adopt all necessary legislative and policy measures to effectively combat corruption, taking into

account the opinion of the Venice Commission on the establishment of a high anti-corruption court (Netherlands);

116.117 Increase efforts to fight corruption effectively; the national anti-corruption bureau and the specialized anti-corruption prosecutor's office, established in 2015, should intensify their work in prosecuting high-level corruption in the Government, parliament and the courts. The establishment of the separate anti-corruption court would be the right step in this direction (Poland);

116.118 Establish an impartial judicial system, including by: establishing an anti-corruption court; empowering anti-corruption institutions (such as the national anti-corruption bureau of Ukraine); and eliminating the potential for political use of the judiciary and prosecutor general's office (United States of America);

116.119 Adopt all necessary legislative and policy measures to effectively combat corruption and related impunity. This includes the immediate creation of an independent and effective specialized anti-corruption court (Slovenia);

116.120 Take all necessary measures to establish and finance anti-corruption courts (Haiti);

116.121 Further strengthen the resources, powers and independence of the new anti-corruption bodies that will step up Ukraine's fights against corruption (Turkey);

116.122 Complete the judicial reform and the anti-corruption policy by reforming the Prosecutor General's Office, reforming the State Security Service according to international standards, as drawn up with the support of Euro-Atlantic institutions, and introduce, as provided for in the relevant legislation, specialized anti-corruption courts (Germany);

116.123 Revoke the amendments of March 2017 to the Law on prevention of corruption, which compel members of anti-corruption non-governmental organizations to release financial declarations (Czechia);

116.124 Adopt all necessary measures to address the concerns of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights about the extent of corruption in Ukraine and its adverse impact on the enjoyment of all human rights (Portugal);

116.125 Fully implement the reforms necessary to establish an independent, effective and transparent judicial system that would not only strengthen Ukraine's capacity to fight corruption, but would also establish an overarching framework for upholding the rule of law and protecting fundamental rights and freedoms (Canada);

116.126 Continue to promote economic and social development, vigorously promote employment and raise people's standards of living (China);

116.127 Enhance the development of the social security system, raise the level of social security (China);

116.128 Provide all eligible citizens with the benefits to which they are entitled, including pensions and social payments, regardless of their status as displaced persons or their place of residence in their own country (Switzerland);

116.129 Improve conditions to combat the higher rate of poverty, especially in the rural areas (Angola);

116.130 Take measures to improve access to health care, in particular with regard to combating infant and maternal mortality (Algeria);

116.131 Continue to prioritize health care in the national budget (Saudi Arabia);

116.132 Implement systems to extend vaccination coverage and monitoring with a view to countering outbreaks of polio, measles and other predictable diseases (Mexico);

116.133 Provide medical care for displaced persons (France);

116.134 Manage waste disposal and hazardous materials in an environmentally sound manner and deal with this issue in a way that ensures the preservation of the environment and the health of individuals (Iraq);

116.135 Continue its efforts to ensure access to education for all children (Portugal);

116.136 Revoke article 7 of the new law on education adopted in September 2017 (Hungary);

116.137 Ensure that the new education law, with its emphasis on the Ukrainian language, does not lead to discrimination against minorities (Republic of Korea);

116.138 Maintain the level of education in one's mother tongue for the persons belonging to national minorities, as per paragraph 167 of its national report regarding education in mother tongue, with due attention paid to the content and the number of hours (Romania);

116.139 Repeal the law on education, which grossly violates the legal rights of linguistic minorities to be educated in their mother tongue (Russian Federation);

116.140 Fully implement international human rights obligations towards minorities related to the use of their mother tongue and culture (Russian Federation);

116.141 Continue its efforts to advance the empowerment of women and to promote gender equality (Bulgaria);

116.142 Fully implement the Law on ensuring equality of the rights and opportunities for women and men, in order to eliminate the gender equality gaps in all spheres of the society (Namibia);

116.143 Continue efforts to ensure equality of rights and opportunities between women and men in all spheres of society, through legal recognition, the implementation of special measures and the elimination of disparities in opportunities between women and men (Nicaragua);

116.144 Provide the commission on gender equality with the necessary infrastructure and budget to carry out its important work, in particular to reduce the pay gap between women and men (Mexico);

116.145 Intensify efforts to reduce wage inequality on the basis of gender (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

116.146 Amend the articles of the Criminal Code dealing with rape and sexual violence, in line with international standards and the recommendations of OHCHR and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, to ensure accountability for conflict-related sexual violence (Ireland);

116.147 Take necessary steps to effectively combat gender-based violence, in particular by amending article 152 of the Criminal Code to add provisions on sexual violence in line with international standards (Belgium);

116.148 Conduct a review of the Criminal Code to incorporate provisions on sexual violence, in line with international standards (Honduras);

116.149 Bring the Criminal Code provisions on sexual violence into line with international standards, ensure accountability for conflict-related sexual crimes and provide victims with adequate support and rehabilitation (Republic of Moldova);

116.150 **Continue to develop laws and policies to combat sexist violence (Andorra);**

116.151 **Criminalize domestic violence and take comprehensive measures to address violence against women and girls (Mongolia);**

116.152 **Continue efforts towards the adoption of a law to combat violence against women that would criminalize domestic violence (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

116.153 **Implement further legislation, law enforcement reform and practical efforts to combat violence against women and to advance gender equality (Australia);**

116.154 **Adopt measures to combat and punish acts of violence against women, as well as to ensure the inclusion of women in different areas of society (Uruguay);**

116.155 **Take measures to prevent and address violence against women and girls and ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted and adequately punished (Croatia);**

116.156 **Provide adequate capacity-building programmes for judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials to better implement laws criminalizing violence against women and better assist and protect women victims of violence (Thailand);**

116.157 **Review legislation and its application, and commit resources to training for police and prosecutors in order to eliminate the widespread impunity for domestic violence (Sweden);**

116.158 **Ensure that the 2016 draft law on preventing and fighting domestic violence also includes punitive sanctions for the perpetrators (Namibia);**

116.159 **Pursue efforts to prevent and eradicate gender-based violence, including domestic violence, raising awareness among society, ensuring due diligence regarding the prosecution and judgment of perpetrators and providing relevant training to the competent authorities on the protection and prevention of violence against women and girls (Nicaragua);**

116.160 **Improve the prosecution and prevention of domestic violence and ensure that victims of domestic violence have access to shelters and other support services (Czechia);**

116.161 **Intensify efforts to counter violence against women and children (Angola);**

116.162 **Provide for the effective participation of civil society in the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda (Spain);**

116.163 **Strengthen women's rights, in particular with respect to representation in public life, as well as the fight against domestic violence and the wage gap between women and men (Algeria);**

116.164 **Consider adopting specific legislation on child rights to ensure the protection of all children without any discrimination (Maldives);**

116.165 **Take all necessary steps towards effective implementation of the national action plan on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child for the period 2017–2022 (Slovakia);**

116.166 **Take further steps to harmonize national legislation with the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Bosnia and Herzegovina);**

116.167 **Step up efforts to promote and protect the rights of the child, in particular the right to education (Bulgaria);**

116.168 **Introduce a clear definition of child pornography into national legislation (Portugal);**

116.169 **Step up efforts to prevent ill-treatment of minors deprived of liberty and guarantee their effective rehabilitation (Ecuador);**

116.170 **Take necessary measures to prevent degrading and cruel treatment of persons with disabilities, especially minors (Iraq);**

116.171 **Continue efforts to implement the national action plan for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Saudi Arabia);**

116.172 **Train the judiciary on the rights of persons with disabilities, taking into account their needs and special skills (Ecuador);**

116.173 **Intensify efforts aimed at eliminating historical and structural discrimination against Roma, and prevent racist and hate speech and crimes against religious minorities and their property (Namibia);**

116.174 **Strengthen initiatives to combat exclusion, marginalization and poverty, including that of the Roma population, among other groups (Ecuador);**

116.175 **Fully ensure the protection of cultural, educational, religious and linguistic rights of all the communities and minorities living in Ukraine, welcoming in this regard the submission of the recent Law on education to the Venice Commission for an expert opinion, which should be fully taken into account (Greece);**

116.176 **Revise the discriminatory laws targeting national minorities, including the recent Law on education (Syrian Arab Republic);**

116.177 **Enhance efforts to better integrate the Roma community into society (Hungary);**

116.178 **Adopt a progressive strategy aimed at increasing educational opportunities and improving the housing and living conditions of the Roma community (India);**

116.179 **Further strengthen the protection of the rights of minorities, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and the Roma community, by effective implementation of existing legislation and effective law enforcement (Germany);**

116.180 **Continue working to eliminate all forms of stigmatization or discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Chile);**

116.181 **Consider introducing amendments to Ukraine's Criminal Code with a view to punishing homophobic crimes (Chile);**

116.182 **Adopt comprehensive legislation to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and protect the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Honduras);**

116.183 **Strengthen efforts to prevent and combat all kinds of discrimination, in particular against women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Italy);**

116.184 **Recognise civil unions between people of the same sex as a first step in the fight against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Spain);**

116.185 **Review relevant legislation and its application in order to eliminate impunity for hate crimes based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Sweden);**

116.186 **Continue strengthening measures to prevent and combat discrimination based on sexual orientation, ensuring the free expression of, and respect for, persons belonging to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community (Uruguay);**

116.187 **Take measures to ensure respect for human rights for migrant workers, including by promoting constructive dialogues and capacity-building, with a view to achieving an efficient system of integration for migrant workers (Thailand);**

116.188 **Make efforts to improve the availability, accessibility and quality of health care and education, in the case of internally displaced people (Angola);**

116.189 **Take further steps to improve access to quality education for internally displaced children, in particular children with disabilities, as a follow-up to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 97.42 and 97.126 of the outcome report (A/HRC/22/7) from the second cycle (Haiti);**

116.190 **Continue exerting increased efforts in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (Azerbaijan).**

117. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Ukraine was headed by Mr. Sergiy Petukhov, Deputy Minister of Justice of Ukraine for the European Integration, and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Yurii Klymenko, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, Deputy Head of the delegation;
- Mr. Artur Artemenko, Head of the Main Branch of the Human Resources Management, Deputy Head of the General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces;
- Mrs. Olha Herasymiuk, First Deputy Head of the National Council of Television and Radio Broadcasting of Ukraine;
- Mr. Valerii Grebeniuk, Diplomatic Counsellor of the Head of the Security Service of Ukraine;
- Ms. Emine Dzheppar, First Deputy Minister for Information Policy of Ukraine;
- Mr. Yevhenii Yenin, Deputy Prosecutor General of Ukraine;
- Ms. Tetiana Kovalchuk, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine;
- Mr. Sergii Koziakov, Chairman of the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine;
- Mr. Oleg Korchovyi, Deputy Head of the European Integration and Legal Cooperation with the International Organizations Division, Department of the International Law, Ministry of Justice of Ukraine;
- Mr. Mykola Kuleba, Commissioner of the President of Ukraine for Children's Rights;
- Ms. Iryna Lutsenko, People's Deputy of Ukraine, Head of the Subcommittee on the international law issues and parliamentary control on Ukraine's implementation of the international obligations, Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine;
- Ms. Natalia Naumenko, Director of the Department on Foreigners and Persons without citizenship of the State Migration Service of Ukraine;
- Ms. Hanna Novosad, Head of the Division on International Cooperation and European Integration of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine;
- Ms. Nataliia Piven, Head of the Branch for Public Health, Ministry of Health of Ukraine;
- Mr. Kostiantyn Tarasenko, Chief of the Division of the Representatives of the Head on the control for human rights compliance in police activity, Department on delivering human rights of the National Police of Ukraine;
- Ms. Natalia Fedorovych, Deputy Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine;
- Mr. Andrii Yurash, Director of the Department for Religious Affairs and Nationalities, Ministry of Culture of Ukraine;
- Ms. Dina Martina, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva;
- Ms. Antonina Shliakotina, First secretary of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva;
- Ms. Kseniia Koval, Second secretary of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva.